

Sheikh Hussein Bridge is ready

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Engineering Corps on Sunday completed the construction of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, which will act as a northern crossing point between Jordan and Israel. Work on the bridge started late last August in coordination with the concerned government branches. Work on the project was divided into three main sections. The first was to link the bridge with Al Arsan-North Shuneh-South Shuneh areas through a 4.5-kilometre long road. The second was to establish the crossing point and related facilities over an area of 4 dunums, including the customs, Public Security Department offices and services offices. The third section was to build the bridge on two 40-metre beams. Work on the bridge was finished 48 hours ahead of the specified time. The crossing is expected to be opened next month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Volume 18 Number 5749

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1994, JUMADA ALAW AL 19, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Jordan rejects surrender, believes in sovereign rights — Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said on Sunday Jordan rejects normalisation relations with Israel that would imply the Kingdom's surrender to or subjugation by the Jewish state and believes in the definition of sovereign rights, beginning with the definition of borders and moving on water rights. The Crown Prince, addressing officers of the Public Security Department (PSD), on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty initiated last week, said the delineation of Jordanian-Israeli borders was based on hundreds of maps drawn according to the Kingdom's viewpoint, and defines the borders as beginning from the course of the River Jordan near Tiberias in the north to the Red Sea through the Jordan Valley.

The Crown Prince noted that the delineation of Jordanian borders with the Palestinian territories Israel occupied in the 1967 war was not an issue for the Kingdom to deal with Israel.

"When we talk about the (Jordan) River's course north of the Dead Sea, we will be talking about clear legal responsibilities resulting from our continuous responsibility under international law towards the territories occupied in 1967," the Crown Prince said.

This Jordanian approach, he said, was aimed at preempting any future criticism that Jordan was responsible for relinquishing sovereign rights (of these territories) to anyone except the Palestinian people. Jordan's northern borders have already been delineated without any external intervention and do not need monitoring by any international or foreign troops, he said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had foiled the 1917 Balfour Declaration. "Jordan is not Palestine

and Israeli politicians have committed themselves not to voice in public any Israeli expansionist desire as Israeli political schools used to threaten repeatedly," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said peace would not be sustainable unless the momentum of the objective and realistic search for achievements defining full sovereignty over the Arab Land is maintained.

The signing of the peace treaty with Israel will not detach Jordan from the Arab and Islamic body, he said. On the contrary it will prompt it to continue shouldering its cultural, social and economic responsibilities, as before, the Crown Prince said.

"Thanks are due to the late King Faisal of Syria who introduced the Arabic language to school curricula and official government dealings in Syria, and later in this part of the world where we live," Prince Hassan said.

He pointed out that Jordan had always sought a regional resolution for problems facing the region. Due to the lack of clear coordination

during the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war, Jordan stressed the need to find an Arab and Islamic solution to inter-regional differences.

However, because of Jordan's principled stand it has borne the consequences which came in the form of pressures on Jordan as if it was punished for that stand which was either misunderstood or deliberately ignored, he said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan seeks the restoration of Palestinian political rights in the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

"Jordan believes that the Palestinians should shoulder their full responsibilities," he said.

However, this does not mean that Jordan should relinquish its religious responsibilities in Jerusalem towards the Arab and Islamic worlds. "Relinquishing such responsibility under the present circumstances is not acceptable," the Crown Prince said. He added that transferring responsibility for holy places

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday visits the officers' club of the Public Security Department (PSD) (photo)

King not to accompany Clinton to Israel

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein will not travel with U.S. President Bill Clinton to Israel after the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and the Jewish state on Wednesday, official sources said Sunday.

The sources said the King will not visit Israel until after Parliament ratifies the peace treaty, which was initiated last Monday.

The government will present the draft treaty to Parliament for ratification after it is signed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. Upon ratification, King Hussein will sign it into law.

Parliamentary sources confirmed that there was enough support for the treaty in the Lower House

of Parliament, which will ratify it despite fierce opposition from Islamists and some pan-Arabist and leftist deputies.

Mr. Clinton will go to Israel after visiting Syria on Thursday. News reports have earlier suggested that King Hussein might accompany the U.S. president on a visit to Israel during which he will address the Israeli Knesset.

The speaker of the Knesset has invited King Hussein to address the Israeli legislature and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has repeatedly issued similar invitations for the King to visit Israel. The King then said that he would visit the Jewish state when the time was right, but, except for saying that the trip could materialise soon, he never specified a date.

Meanwhile, two days before the arrival of President Clinton, details of his one-day trip here remain sketchy and unclear.

Though officials refuse to confirm any details because they say the schedule could change, reports said Mr. Clinton will arrive in Aqaba from Egypt Wednesday morning.

After meeting with the King, Mr. Clinton will attend the signing ceremony and have lunch in Aqaba before visiting Petra and then flying to Amman. The U.S. president is expected to spend the night in Amman before leaving for Syria Thursday, but it is still not clear whether he will address Parliament during his first visit to the Kingdom or speak to a selected group of Jordanians at the Hashemiyeh

Palace, before he attends a state banquet in his honour.

Officials, meanwhile, said the site of the signing ceremony was almost ready to receive the thousands of guests and officials who will attend the ceremony in the desert location few kilometres north of Aqaba.

Head of the Aqaba Region Authority Fayez Khasawneh said a 14-dunum area has been prepared for the ceremony, with work nearing completion on a park that could accommodate 2,000 vehicles and a landing area for six helicopters.

Flags and banners will bedeck the street connecting Aqaba to the site. There was no information of whether similar signs of festivities will be visible in Amman.

Israel holds dozens of Hamas members in new crackdown

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Dozens of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, have been arrested in the occupied West Bank since Wednesday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, Economy Minister Shimon Shetret said Sunday.

"Security services have arrested dozens of Palestinians from Hamas linked to the attack, but some of them who were on the wanted list managed to flee," Mr. Shetret told Israeli radio.

"But they can be certain that we will capture them and nobody will go unpunished," the minister added.

The cabinet also gave authorities permission to destroy the homes of families of those who perpetrated attacks against Israelis, the radio said.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni had opposed the move as one that would also hurt innocent people. Israel warned Sunday of a long war on Hamas, which would be guaranteed "special treatment" following

Wednesday's Tel Aviv bus bombing. Sources said dozens of Hamas activists had been taken into custody since the bus blew up on Tel Aviv. The sources gave no exact numbers or say where the men were picked up.

Palestinian sources described the detainees as low-ranking Hamas supporters. In a statement received in Beirut, Hamas said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had issued orders to assassinate its leaders in retaliation for the bombing — the bloodiest attack against Israelis in 16 years.

Hamas vowed to hit back if any of its officials was attacked inside the Israeli-occupied territories or abroad.

"We tell Rabin and all the Zionist terror and assassination apparatuses beware of harming the sons and symbols of Hamas," the group said. "Hamas or its brigades will not hesitate to retaliate with all its might to these attempts..." The fundamentalist group

reiterated its demand that Israel free Arab prisoners, including its founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

"The cabinet decided measures to give Hamas a special treatment," Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Elizer said on Israel radio after the weekly meeting of ministers. He refused to give details of the warning, which followed the army's closure of the West Bank and Gaza until further notice.

A British newspaper said Mr. Rabin ordered agents to "hunt down and eliminate" leaders of Hamas.

The weekly Observer said Mr. Rabin's "secret decision" was taken at an emergency cabinet meeting Thursday. The death toll rose to 23 at the weekend when a woman died in hospital from her injuries, according to an AFP count.

Security officials presented the cabinet with the names of senior Hamas operatives living in the Gaza Strip, occupying it.

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Rabin will not invite Arafat to signing

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will not invite Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman and fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Yasser Arafat to Wednesday's peace treaty ceremony with Jordan, officials said.

Mr. Rabin made it clear on Sunday when he met Moshe Katzav, head of the parliamentary party of the opposition Likud group, the officials said.

The right-wing faction had threatened to boycott the signing spectacle on the Israeli-Jordanian border north of the Red Sea if Mr. Arafat was invited.

However, the Likud announced that a majority of its 32 parliament members would vote in favour of the treaty when it comes up for ratification in the Knesset on Tuesday and attend the ceremony.

The Israeli cabinet voted unanimously Sunday for the treaty.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu told Israel Radio his party had always backed the idea of a treaty with Jordan.

"I'm going to support it, the deficiencies are not significant enough to warrant not supporting it," he added.

Mr. Arafat has criticised the peace deal because of a Jerusalem clause recognising Jordan's special role in administering Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who has also picked holes in the treaty, said no Arab head of state would be present for the signing.

On Saturday Mr. Arafat ordered his foreign affairs chief to boycott the signing ceremony, a senior PLO official said.

At the weekly cabinet meeting of his self-rule government in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Arafat ordered Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign affairs chief, to turn down an invitation to the signing ceremony, the Palestinian official said on condition of anonymity. Mr. Arafat himself was not been invited to the ceremony.

Israel hopes Clinton can break deadlock with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel hopes Bill Clinton will pay a commitment from Syria to enter high-level peace talks with the Jewish state when he makes the first visit to Damascus by a U.S. president in 20 years.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Mr. Clinton would be making more than a courtesy call this week, especially since Syria was one of seven states on the U.S. list of "state sponsors of terror."

"I very much hope this visit will be able to advance the negotiations with Syria," Mr. Beilin told Israel Television on Sunday. "The way to solving this still looks long, and it would be Clinton's visit will shorten it."

Syria welcomed Mr. Clinton's visit as a reward for its firm stand on the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Clinton's visit marks a clear recognition of Syria's "essential role" in the region, the ruling party's newspaper Al Baath said.

Wednesday of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Diplomatic analysts say Syria would cooperate with President Clinton.

"Syria is ready to sign a peace agreement with Israel immediately if Clinton brings an Israeli commitment of full withdrawal from the Golan Heights," a Damascus-based diplomat said.

"President Assad himself said that peace was a strategic option for Syria and that Damascus was ready to make peace with Israel immediately and to meet the objective requirements of peace. The ball is now in the court of Israel and Washington," he added.

"Any talk about issues related to the after-peace status before the elimination of the state of war and the achievement of Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, boundaries would be futile," one diplomat said.

"Syria welcomes President Clinton's visit and stresses his unwavering faith in a just and comprehensive peace."

moves injustice and realises security and stability in the region," the English-language Syria Times daily said.

Mr. Clinton's decision to throw his weight once more behind the effort to move Syria and Israel towards a peace agreement underlines his eagerness to see the U.S.-sponsored peace effort succeed in ending one of the world's long-running conflicts.

He and Mr. Assad held a summit in Geneva in January.

The Syria Times said that both Syria and Lebanon were, and still are, siding with the implementation of U.N. resolutions providing for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon.

The Tishrin daily pointed out that Mr. Clinton's visit to Damascus constitutes an American "admission of Syria's fundamental role in the Middle East."

The Arabic-language daily stressed that "the peace of

Iraqi move could trigger strike — U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The top U.S. military officer said that any Iraqi military reinforcements near the Kuwaiti border could trigger a preemptive U.S. strike, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, said "any kind of reinforcement" in equipment or troops near the Kuwaiti border "would be considered threatening to us" and could trigger a preemptive U.S. strike, the daily reported.

The Post said Gen. Shalikashvili made his remarks in an interview in Manila, where he is attending ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's invasion of the Japanese-occupied Philippines during World War II.

Iraq said on Saturday it would uphold its right to deploy troops in the country's south, calling U.S. warnings to restrict such movements an interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Any attempt to reinforce the Iraqi army's third and fourth corps "will be viewed as a threat to the stability of the region," Gen. Shalikashvili said. "We would then reserve the right... to take appropriate action including military action to ensure that such reinforcements do not occur."

In Baghdad, diplomats said Iraq, after its show of military strength near Kuwait, is switching to diplomacy as possible before the U.N. Security Council reviews its crippling trade sanctions.

"They (Iraqis) believe they have succeeded in attracting the world's attention to sanctions. They now strive not to let the world forget about them," one Baghdad diplomat said.

As part of its campaign, Baghdad will soon issue a statement recognising Kuwait's sovereignty within borders established by the United Nations after Iraqi troops were forced out of the emirate by a U.S.-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf war.

"That will remove a major hurdle and appeal quite well to countries sympathetic to their case," one diplomat said.

Iraqi officials are playing up the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the sanctions in the hope that Western consciences will prompt a softening of the headline standing on sanctions.

Early this month Iraq sent its well-equipped Republican Guards towards the Kuwaiti border and then pulled them back when the United States and its allies countered by rushing troops, aircraft and warships to the Gulf.

The official Iraqi press denounced a subsequent U.N. Security Council resolution, which barred the redeployment of Republican Guards in the south, as a "violation of basic elements of sovereignty."

But while the media rhetoric has been strong, the response from senior Baghdad officials to the curbs on Iraqi troops movements has been notable for its lack of defiance.

Parliamentary Speaker Saddi Mehdi Saleh, while up-

IAF bloc to boycott possible Clinton speech

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) on Sunday decided to boycott U.S. President Bill Clinton's possible address to Parliament in expression of its rejection of the peace process and Mr. Clinton's visit to the Kingdom.

Leading IAF Deputy Hamam Sa'id told the Jordan Times the 16-member parliamentary bloc of the IAF took the decision unanimously during a meeting Sunday.

Boycotting the session was one of two options the front was considering to convey its stand on the visit of Mr. Clinton to Jordan to attend the signing ceremony of a peace treaty with Israel on Wednesday.

The other option was to attend the session and "make Clinton know how we feel about him as enemy of the Arab and Muslim nations," as IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour had told the Jordan Times earlier.

The U.S.-educated Dr. Sa'id said the bloc opted for boycotting the session because it was not clear how the Islamist deputies could convey to the U.S. president their position that he is not welcome in Jordan.

Dr. Sa'id said the bloc would hold a press conference as Mr. Clinton addresses Parliament to let him know of the IAF's rejection of the peace treaty and their feelings against him.

Mr. Mansour said in a statement that IAF deputies hope that the U.S. administration would "understand that this position is a protest message against its policies against peoples so that it will

reconsider those policies" which only help in winning the U.S. the enmity of other nations.

It is also a message that peace which does not correspond with the interests of the people and which does not lead to the regaining of their lands and rights will not last, he said.

Mr. Mansour also said the IAF position was prompted by the U.S. "hostile policies against Islamic movements" through rallying opposition to them and supporting "dictatorships in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria" against them.

Mr. Mansour, who was a member of an official parliamentary delegation that visited the U.S. this summer, had told the Jordan Times the Islamist deputies "begged Mr. Clinton not to come to Parliament so as not to 'embarrass us and make us embarrassed him'."

The IAF has not yet decided, however, on whether it will withdraw its deputies from Parliament in protest against the expected ratification of the peace treaty by the Lower House of Parliament which has a majority of peace supporters.

Mr. Mansour said their decision would depend on how the government treats the opposition and on whether it further encroaches on what he called "what is left of democracy."

The IAF members appeared aware of their limitations in influencing Jordan's move towards peace with Israel but are still determined to "employ all the power we have" to block the ratification of the peace treaty.

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Iraq's school system crumbles under sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — In a darkened classroom in Saddam City, Baghdad's poorest quarter, most of the 38 pupils were squatting on the floor trying to learn their lessons, while a lucky few perched at the three available desks.

Iraq once prided itself of having the finest education system in the Middle East funded in the 1970s by the income from its huge oil reserves.

But today's schools serve only as a mocking reminder of that, as the crippling U.N. sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 reaped their toll in the classroom.

There is a lack of textbooks and basic materials, as the government can only provide well-thumbed and torn books and a handful of notebooks. It has no funds to replace broken desks.

There is a lack of teachers as many have quit the job, because of the low salaries. But most of all there is a lack of pupils.

An increasing number of children are playing truant. Ten per cent of pupils were absent this year, five per cent the year before.

Most have been pulled out of school by their parents who put them to work to supplement the family's meagre income, ignoring the fact that primary education is compulsory under the law.

Others miss lessons because of illness, often caused by malnutrition.

"Who ate this morning?" deputy school director Najia Mohammad asked the pupils, who came from Saddam City, named after the Iraqi president.

Only a few raised their hands, to say they had eaten breakfast. Some had had cheese, but most had eaten only bread and tea.

"They are underfed, they cannot concentrate," she said, citing the case of a 10-year-old boy who had had to be sent home a few days previously after fainting from hunger.

"Malnutrition is beginning to be felt in schools especially in the increasing failure rate which rose last year to 25 per cent, from 15 per cent in the previous years," Education Minister Hikmat Bazzaz told AFP.

Moreover, the number of children leaving school is on the rise, mainly in secondary schools," he added.

According to his figures, seven per cent of Iraq's five million school-age children have quit this year.

He is equally concerned at the growing number of teachers who are abandoning their posts, mainly because of low wages averaging around 3,000 dinars a month or less than \$6.

"Teachers cannot live on their salaries. Those who don't resign often fail to show up for several days to take on a more lucrative job, or work after class which inevitably affects the teaching standard," Mr. Bazzaz said.

In rural areas, some of the teachers had gone over to farming, he added.

"The law forbids of teachers from getting another job, but in fact, we are encouraging them to do so," he said.

Another reason for teacher absenteeism is the high cost of travelling to work.

The education ministry has launched a campaign to try to persuade parents to club together to pay their transport.

He painted a bleak picture of the future.

"One classroom is sometimes shared by 70 children, who sit on the floor, catching diseases. A large number of schools in the heavily-populated areas have two or even three shifts of pupils a day," he said.

Discussions with the EU

INFORMATION Minister Jawad Anani Sunday reviews with ambassadors of the European Union (EU) accredited to Jordan developments in the peace process on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the resultant peace treaty which was initiated in Amman last week.

Dr. Anani discussed with the ambassadors issues of common interest and role of the EU in supporting development and investment projects in the post-peace era.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said the ambassadors voiced their countries' full support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and their appreciation of Jordan's important role in establishing peace in the region.

Dr. Anani pointed out that the EU countries have allocated 500 million European Currency Units (ECU's) about \$580 million of the region to develop their economies. Jordan will have a big share of the EU aid (Petra photo)



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Southern village hopes for solution for water problem with peace treaty

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times

RAHMEH — The inhabitants of Rahmeh, a village lying in Wadi Araba 40 kilometres north of Aqaba, are pleased with the announcement of a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to be signed next week.

"Alhamdulillah," came the cheerful replies of men and children alike when asked about the news of the treaty.

Rahmeh village has a population of around 500. Children are in abundance; each family has about 10 children.

Life in this very arid land is evidently tough; a reservoir roughly measuring 50 square metres is void of water.

A little way up the road and closer to their fruit and vegetable farm, a farm guard said that the Jordan Valley Authority recently installed a solar-powered water pump which serves the needs of the people, the farmland and the animals.

The village depends heavily on livestock, including sheep, goats, camels, fowl and donkeys and the farm.

The guard said that the farm employs 18 people, but all were away for the weekend.

Some villagers are employed by the Jordan Electricity Authority, which is responsible for the towns of Aqaba, Rahmeh and Anshra, while others work for the National Resources Authority, principally guarding its buildings.

The lack of water is an obvious problem. At the farm there is a greenhouse, where, the guard said, nothing had been planted for a year. Normally it houses, among others, melons, strawberries and cucumbers. But the water-pump broke some time ago and without it there is insufficient pressure for water to pass along the overhead irrigation tubes.

The pump engine also drove the fans to ventilate the greenhouses. In the absence of water and ventilation the produce cannot survive.

The villagers said that although thankful for the peace treaty they would not witness much change to their lifestyle although they hope to feel the benefits of increased access to water.

On the Israeli side of Wadi Araba, a farm opposite their village, like the six or seven other farms dotted along the 40-kilometres stretch from Aqaba to Rahmeh, indicates greater availability of water.

From the air they can be seen as large, lush and productive.

The villagers said that during the winter the area was subject to torrential rains lost to the boggy, brackish land east of the village. But they added that a dam four kilometres north was under construction which would also help their situation.

Meanwhile, in Aqaba roads are being swept, trees planted and street lighting repaired.

Israeli trucks crossed the border Thursday into the area between the two

Jordanian and Israeli posts at the Aqaba crossing carrying scaffolding and metal plates for the stage to be erected for the signing of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty on Wednesday.

An army officer said that the road from the crossing point towards Aqaba town had been completed in three days.

Aqaba residents appear unperturbed by the hubbub surrounding them, probably accustomed to the influx of officials, journalists and security personnel since the holding of various bilateral talks in Aqaba and Eilat.

Hotel reservations are being made thick and fast. According to one hotelier, three hotels are already completely booked up for the majority of the week by foreign journalists covering the historic event.

However, not everyone is aware of the huge changes imminent. A young American tourist said: "Yeh, I've heard about some agreements to take place. I think Clinton is coming, right?"

press ahead with negotiations on organising Palestinian elections to an autonomy council next week despite the Tel Aviv blast.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is to meet Mr. Clinton in Cairo, has urged the president to lean on Israel to speed up implementation of the Palestinian autonomy deal.

Syria gave no immediate reaction to Mr. Clinton's visit, announced Friday, but Mr. Assad was quick to dampen Israeli hopes that the peace deal with Jordan could be used as a model for negotiations with his own country.

Anyone imagining that Syria would leave its land to Israel as Jordan had agreed to do was making a "big mistake," he warned.

The biggest stumbling block to Israeli-Syrian peace is disagreement over the terms of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel has offered a partial withdrawal from the Golan over three years to allow for normalisation of ties, while Syria has steadfastly demanded an Israeli commitment to total withdrawal.

Mr. Rabin looked forward to a Middle East free of "hated, violence and wars" when he initiated the deal last week.

King Hussein said in a speech to Parliament Saturday: "We hope that this treaty will herald the beginning of a new era, leading to comprehensive peace embracing the entire region."

Mr. Clinton, who meets Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Thursday, said he believed his visit "will further the goal of an ultimate peace agreement between Israel and Syria."

"Until that is done we will never have comprehensive peace in the Middle East," he warned.

He is due to arrive in Cairo on Wednesday, before visiting Jordan, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as well as Syria.

It will be the president's first tour of the Middle East and reflects the acceleration of the peace process.

But it also comes after a string of bloody attacks by militants seeking to derail Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

On Wednesday a suicide

Momentous Mideast week in store

By Julie Bradford

Agence France Press

NICOSIA — A momentous week is in store for the Middle East with the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on Wednesday and a tour by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Jordan will become only the second Arab country after Egypt to make peace with Israel, when King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin take part in a glittering signing ceremony on their common border.

Also present at the ceremony will be Mr. Clinton, who will then fly on to Damascus for the first visit to Syria by a U.S. president since Richard Nixon travelled there in 1974.

Mr. Clinton is hoping to capitalise on momentum from the Israeli-Jordanian deal to find a breakthrough in the toughest track of the peace process, between Israel and Syria.

Israeli and Jordanian leaders have also expressed hope that their treaty will give a fresh boost to negotiations with other Arab countries and bring a comprehensive

bomber blew up a packed bus in a busy shopping street in Tel Aviv, killing 21 people as well as himself.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), a Palestinian hardline group opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord signed in September 1993.

Hamas also claimed a gun attack in a West Jerusalem street which left two people dead, as well as the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier which ended a bloodbath and death of the hostage on Oct. 14.

Mr. Rabin responded to the bus bombing by indefinitely closing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Clinton said the attacks made U.S. efforts to push forward the peace process all the more urgent.

"I think it's important... particularly now, with the violent reaction to the efforts at peace, that the United States stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends and allies who are taking such terrific risks to make peace," he said.

Israel and the PLO are to

press ahead with negotiations on organising Palestinian elections to an autonomy council next week despite the Tel Aviv blast.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

3 killed in road accident in north

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people were killed and 22 injured on Sunday in an accident involving a passenger mini-bus and a pick-up car driving on the Amman-Jerash road, the Civil Defence Department said. In the casualties were rushed to Jerash hospital and some of them were discharged after receiving treatment. Most of the injured were listed in moderate condition, the department said.

Rocket attacks kill 61 people

KABUL (AP) — Rocket slammed into the centre of Afghan capital Sunday, killing six people and bringing the death toll in three days of fierce factional fighting, hospital officials said. But officials said the exact death toll is impossible to determine because people seldom bring their dead to a hospital, preferring to bury them immediately in keeping with strict Islamic tradition. Since Friday, at least 200 more people have been wounded from warring Islamic leaders, took a particularly bad beating on Friday, when witnesses said hundreds of rockets pummeled the city. "Where are our leaders? They are too afraid of the people to come to the city that they have destroyed," said Mohammad Anwar, a witness to Sunday's bloodshed. Afghanistan's nine main Islamic groups have been waging a bitter battle for power since overthrowing the old communist regime in April 1992.

German TV team arrested in Turkey

BONN (AFP) — Turkish security forces arrested a reporting team from Germany's ARD television channel, accusing them of anti-Turkish propaganda, the ARD correspondent in Turkey said Sunday. Dieter Sinnhuber, questioned by telephone from Bonn, said he had been assigned to his hotel in Hopa northeastern Turkey near the border with Georgia along with a German woman aide and two Turkish cameramen. Police arrested the team early on Saturday and seized films and notebooks from their hotel rooms, Mr. Sinnhuber said. The Germans also had their passports confiscated. Mr. Sinnhuber said the team had been accused of recording "anti-Turkish interviews" although he said the team had made only one interview of a non-political character. A German foreign ministry spokesman said officials in Bonn and at the Ankara embassy were working to resolve the dispute.

Relief plane under fire from Somali gunmen

MOGADISHU (R) — A small aircraft sponsored by the European Union (EU) to serve the international aid operation in Somalia was fired on by unidentified gunmen when taking off from Afmadow in southern Somalia on Saturday, EU officials in the capital Mogadishu said. The plane was not damaged, but the officials said the incident was serious and could affect further aid flights to the area. They said it was not clear whether gunfire was deliberately directed at the plane, or whether it had been caught in crossfire from fighting between rival Somali groups.

Malaysian soldier killed in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (R) — A Malaysian U.N. soldier was killed when the armoured personnel carrier he was in overturned in Mogadishu on Sunday, a U.N. spokesman said. Other soldiers in it were injured. No other vehicle was involved. On Saturday, a Pakistani jeep overturned in the same area, but its occupants escaped with minor injuries.

Iranian plane may have exploded

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian plane which crashed earlier this month killing all 66 people on board may have exploded in mid-air, the head of Iran's civil aviation on Sunday quoted as saying. "Preliminary studies indicate that the plane possibly was destroyed in the air," Ali Shahcheraghi was quoted as saying by Abrar newspaper. It was not clear whether the official suspected sabotage or an accident. He said the plane had been checked in Isfahan and, only after "the final okay of the pilot and coordination with Tehran" it was allowed to take off on its journey to Tehran. The Fokker F-28 of the state-owned Aseman airline crashed south of Tehran on 12 killing all 59 passengers and seven crew.

Yemen launches Mukalla cement project

ADEN (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a \$150 million cement plant in Mukalla, Hadramawt, the first by the private sector, Yemen Television said. The television said the plant, with an initial annual capacity of 500,000 tonnes to be increased to one million tonnes, would be completed in three years. The project would be carried out by the Hadramawt Cement Industry, a private company, the television said. Mr. Saleh laid the foundation stone during his first visit to the southeastern province of Hadramawt, the stronghold of his former arch foe. Ali Salem Al Beidh, who made an abortive attempt to create an independent state in the south earlier this year, Mr. Saleh emerged victor of the two-month civil war which ended on July 7. Mr. Beidh fled Mukalla and is believed to be in Oman. Yemen has three other cement plants, all public sector owned, with a combined capacity of 1.3 million tonnes.

Suspects to go on trial for attack on Korean tourists

CAIRO (AFP) — Eight suspected Islamic militants are to go on trial on Nov. 1 for a bomb attack on South Korean tourists last year, a semi-official newspaper said Saturday. Three tourists were slightly injured when assailants threw a petrol bomb at their bus outside a hotel on a road leading to the Giza Pyramids on Feb. 4, 1993. The defendants are accused of plotting to wreck the tourism industry, and illegal possession of fire-arms, ammunition and explosives, according to Al Ahran Al Misai. The charges are punishable by death or life imprisonment.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Les So Compagnons
18:30 News in French
18:45 Magazine Sportif
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 Movies, Games, and Videos
19:30 The Emergency Room
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:10 Columbus
22:00 News in English

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr
05:40 Sunrise (Shams) Duh
11:20 Dhuh
14:30 Asr
17:00 Maghrib
18:17 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Suffield Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasacres Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 654195.
The Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will prevail with a chance of scattered showers, and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot and partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 31
Aqaba 23 / 37
Desert 14 / 34
Jordan Valley 23 / 36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature:
Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity
readings: Amman 23 per cent.
Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633
Dr. Youssef Abdo 694916
Dr. Jum'a Abu Diab 738848
Dr. Bassam Karadabeh 739200
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdows pharmacy 773336
Al Asena pharmacy 670555
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmeican pharmacy 637661
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Zakaria Malkawi 218630
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufid Dhanra 985522

Khalifeh pharmacy 905417

EMERGENCIES

Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Emergency 661111
Rescue 630341
Highway Police 843402
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Water Authority 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Oceana Air Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jahul Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 630140
Palestine, Shmeican 664174
Shmeican Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajres 771012
Al-Muhajres 771112/24
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

AKABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Sanaa (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Bangkok (RJ)
18:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:00 Khartoum (SD)
12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Sanaa (YV)
14:30 Kiev (GV)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:15 Dubai (EM)
19:20 Cairo (EK)
01:20 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:25 Frankfurt (LH)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Dhahran (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Damascus (SD)
12:30 Khartoum (SD)
15:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Sanaa (YV)
19:15 Kiev (GV)
19:15 Dubai (EK)
20:15 Cairo (MS)
02:20 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus
Dep. Damascus
Arr. Amman
5:00 p.m. every Monday
7:30 a.m. every Sunday
5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 720 / 450
Banana 340 / 220
Banana (Mukammal) 630
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 300 / 200
Cauliflower 300 / 200
Clementine 280 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 360 / 220
Eggplant 300 / 200
Garlic 1300 / 900
Lemon 270 / 170
Marrow (large) 150 / 80
Marrow (small) 340 / 220
Olive (green) 450 / 300
Onion (green) 400 / 280
Onion (dry) 420 / 280
Orange 550 / 350
Pepper (hot) 400 / 280
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 200
Potato 450 / 300
Spinach 280 / 150
Tomato 400 / 280
String beans 780 / 450



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives a visiting Turkish business delegation headed by Serif Egeli and accompanied by Jordanian businessmen's Association President Hamdi Tabbas (Petra photo)

Crown Prince talks of expected improvement in regional relations

Prince Hassan receives visiting Turkish team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday reviewed with a visiting Turkish delegation ideas and plans for the development of the Middle East region in the new era of peace and improvement of relations among different countries of the region.

Jordan aims basically to ensure cooperation among these countries for the sake of enhancing the cause of peace which will eventually benefit the people of the region, improve their living conditions and secure prosperity for all, said Prince Hassan at the meeting.

The delegation, led by Serif Egeli, co-chairman of the Turkish-Jordanian Business Council has been conducting talks with Jordanian officials and businessmen on means of promoting trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Turkey.

Mr. Egeli, who leads a 70-member delegation from the Turkish business community, earlier Sunday met Minister of Supply Adel Qudah and Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Hamdi Tabbas.

Discussion at the meetings centred on prospects of Jordan importing Turkish chick peas and lentils through the

Ministry of Supply. They also discussed the prospect of Jordan benefitting from Turkey's expertise in the processing of olive oil. According to Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif Sunday, Jordan is this year expected to produce between 14,000 and 15,000 tonnes of olive oil. The minister said that this amount plus the remaining amounts of olive oil in store at the Ministry of Supply's warehouses would be sufficient for the Jordanian market's needs until the 1995 season.

According to Mr. Qudah Jordan has already established one factory for canning olive oil. The Turkish delegation also met Sunday with Mohammad Murad, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), and reviewed the existing cooperation between the two countries in the contracting business.

The coming peace is expected to open new scopes of cooperation among Middle East contractors, said Mr. Murad.

For his part Mr. Egeli said that Turkey welcomes the opportunity for contractors from both countries to embark in joint ventures in infrastructure and housing schemes.

During the meeting Prince Hassan noted that the peace treaty with Israel, to be signed Wednesday, has 19 agreements that are to be ratified and implemented in the next three, six and nine months.

"So we are talking about economic cooperation, trade, investment and bringing the region into the world economy," said the Crown Prince.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the support of "our friends in Turkey who have encouraged us for so many years to work single-mindedly towards achieving comprehensive peace."

The comprehensiveness of this commitment was illustrated by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel who expressed his support for Jordan in his telegram of congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein, said the Crown Prince.

"I would like to say we look forward to bring the Eastern Mediterranean region, which politically we share with Turkey, being partners in the context of the peace treaty, into a period full of effective participation not only in the world economy, but also in building a zone of security and stability for the Middle East."

Queen Noor calls for implementation of clear sighted vision for Petra region

Petra National Trust management plan workshop begins

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated a workshop in Petra designed to review a management plan for the Petra National Park and then takes steps to implement the plan.

As patron and honorary chairperson of the Petra National Trust (PNT), Queen Noor had, in 1990, requested assistance from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Federico Mayor in preparing the management plan and outlining therein the major problems "threatening the integrity" of this site.

The Nabatean city of Petra was declared a World Heritage Site in 1985, and as such is listed among approximately 300 sites worldwide.

The Queen has always stressed the necessity for environmentally responsible tourism and for collaboration to protect and preserve sites of antiquity and natural beauty.

In her address to the gathering of about 100 experts and other individuals representing national and international organisations, the Queen said there has been an increased focus on Jordan and its antiquities in the international press as a result of the progress accomplished in the peace process and the anticipated dramatic rise in tourism to the Kingdom.

She added that travellers have been advised to visit Jordan and see its antiquities, especially Petra, before they are ruined.

These perceptions, she said, are perhaps related to a lack of success to date to formulate a clear sighted vision for the Petra region, adding that this is precisely the purpose of this workshop.

The UNESCO mission to prepare master plans for the entire Petra region began in

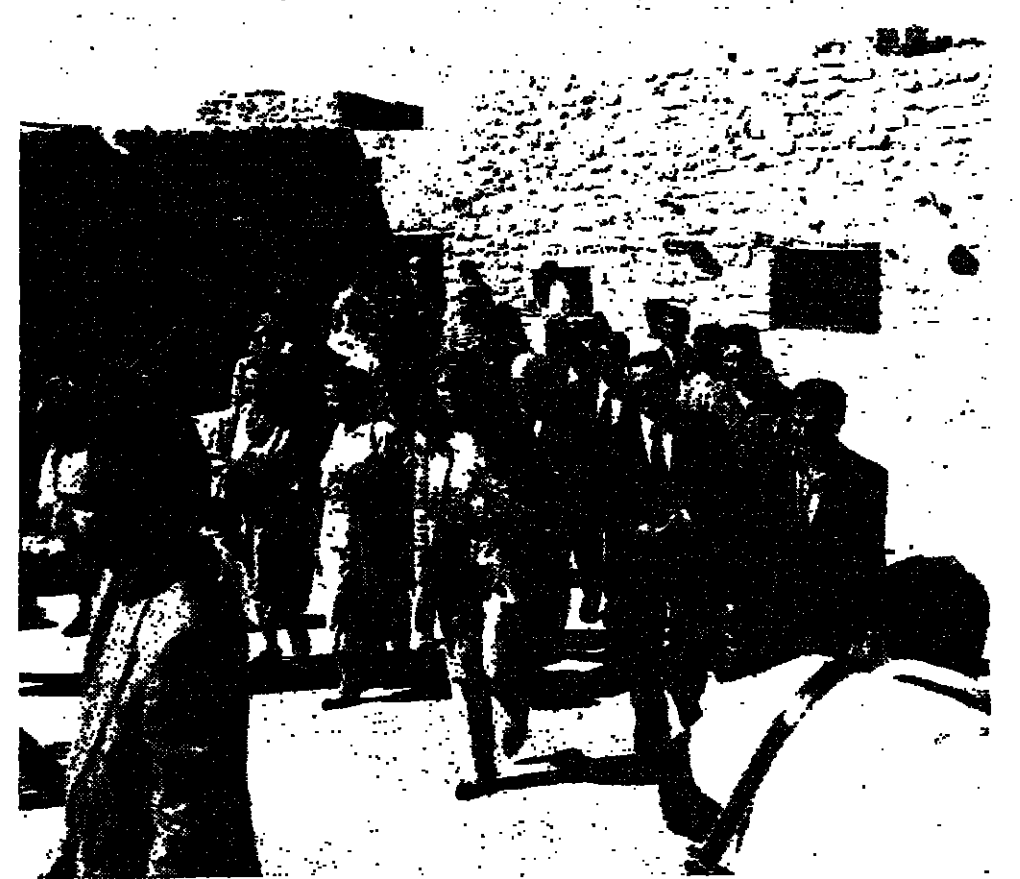
1992. Since then, the team was able to evaluate the principal threats to the area from a combination of cultural, socio-economic and environmental factors, according to a PNT spokesperson.

The main problems, according to UNESCO, are: management deficiency; hotel development (considered to have the most serious impact on the Petra National Park as some of these hotel projects have been carried out without an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and pose an excessive negative visual impact on the site and are located in the catchment area, above the line of the natural springs, impacting on the water resources of the residents of the area between Wadi Musa and Tayybeh; erosion; uncontrolled development of villages; too high concentration of visitors; lack of control of visitors circulation; spread of commercial activities; antiquities at risk; quality of restoration; sanitary facilities; information in general; and ticketing policies.

The workshop aims to look at the management plan submitted by UNESCO and presented by Said Zulficar, director of the Cultural Heritage Division, UNESCO headquarters, and two other specialists who assisted in its preparation.

Queen Noor said that in His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the Throne, the King announced that in view of the tourist demand for Petra, a higher committee for Permanent Tourism Development has been set up and a regional planning council was also set up for the area, with a membership that includes all the parties concerned, including public and private sectors.

PNT President, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd, Ben Zeid spoke to the attendees of the urgency in implementing a plan that will preserve and protect all that makes Petra unique.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday arrives in Petra to inaugurate the Petra National Trust Management Plan (Photo by George Crystal)

plementing a plan that will preserve and protect all that makes Petra unique.

"The major objective of our workshop then, is to address the issues outlined in the Management Plan, decide on solutions to the problems therein and set in motion a solid plan of action that will work to rescue and sustain this most valuable gift of our national heritage," said Prince Ra'd.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan also addressed the gathering saying that the ministry has begun implementing carefully studied rules and regulations specifically designed to achieve the intricate objective of ensuring

ing that the expected boom in tourism development is undertaken in harmony with each particular site's distinctive character.

Dr. Zulficar urged the taking of a definite decision between long-term cultural identity and short-term economic gains. He said that the status of Petra as a World Heritage Site brings with it responsibilities and implications for Jordanians to conserve and restore the site, of which they are the custodians on behalf of the international community.

Dr. Zulficar said, "We do not want to lose our heritage for our children."

Petra National Trust is a board of trustees dedicated to the preservation of Petra by protecting the archaeological remains and their environment, enforcing strict regulations, restoring the monuments in their natural setting, enhancing the Petra National Park in general and the Petra sanctuaries more specifically, through a friendly, environmental, and cultural tourism.

The management plan was prepared by UNESCO in cooperation with Petra National Trust and the Ministry of Tourism.

The workshop continues today in Petra, then will move for a session on Tuesday, in Amman at the PNT offices.

Visiting Palestinian social scientists call for strong Jordanian-Palestinian ties

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five visiting Palestinian university professors have called for strong Jordanian-Palestinian relations, stressing that mutual cooperation was vital to ensuring the prosperity of both peoples.

Speaking at a seminar Sunday organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, Khalil Al Shaqqa said the Palestinians can not be divorced from Jordan, which, he added, serves as the Palestinian people's respite. Dr. Shaqqa, who heads the Nablus-based Palestine Research and Studies Centre, said that the best action to take is to bring about a Jordanian-Palestinian reconciliation that would end competition.

Mazen Abu Aitah, of Al Najah University, also in the West Bank town of Nablus, said that a confederation between Jordan and Palestine serves as the best formula for organising future relations between the two sides, provided that the Palestinians are not marginalised in Jordan's leading institutions and are equal partners.

Dr. Zein University Professor Ali Jirbawi said Jordanian-Palestinian rivalry encouraged the Israelis to achieve their objectives in

their separate negotiations with the Palestinians and Jordanians. He called for a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship based on a strong foundation which could be enhanced through a Jordanian-Palestinian treaty.

Dr. Jirbawi said that while Israel seeks to ensure security, which proved fragile in light of last week's bomb blast in Tel Aviv, Jordan seeks to reaffirm its entity and so it seeks political guarantees.

He said the Palestinians on the other hand, feel they are weak, with a feeble entity, but they seek to reassert their national identity.

With regard to the Oslo accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, Dr. Shaqqa said the Palestinians saw in it a means of fulfilling their desire to attain independence.

The Palestinians feel that the October 1991 Madrid conference gave Jordan an important and basic role in the future entity of the Palestinians.

The Oslo accord, he said, was a way for the Palestinians to shake off the Jordanian role.

Dr. Shaqqa said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat now faces a genuine crisis in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in terms of security where he failed to contain the Islamic



Bir Zeit University Professor Ali Jirbawi (red right) Sunday addresses a seminar on Jordanian-Palestinian relations at the University of Jordan. Also on the podium (right to left) are professors Ziad Abu Amer, Khalil Al Shaqqa, Jirbawi, Mustafa Hamarneh (Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies), Iyad Barghouti and Mazen Abu Aitah (Photo by Yusef Al 'Alwan)

Resistance Movement, Hamas, and proved impotent in building an infrastructure for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat's failure has resulted in Hamas winning over the street and has caused the Palestinians to suspect the Palestinian leadership's ability to extend its rule to the West Bank, added Dr. Shaqqa.

His colleague, Iyad Barghouti, said that the Palestine

National Authority (PNA), which emerged as an outcome of the Oslo accord, failed to reflect the real authority of the Palestinian leadership to such a degree that the Palestinian people in the self-rule areas have become indifferent to who rules over them in Israel, Jordan or others.

He said that under the PNA several security services exist, each one oriented to-

wards or working against the other.

Dr. Barghouti added that a democratic and prosperous Jordan could make Jordan the model with which they would like to unite. But, he said, if Jordan Television (JTV) is one of the mechanisms to achieve such a unity, he assured the audience that at the moment JTV has no credibility on the West Bank.

Professional association chiefs condemn peace agreements

AMMAN — The Council of Presidents of Jordanian Professional Associations Sunday issued a statement condemning Arab-Israeli agreements which lead to normalisation of relations and urged Parliament and the public to "reject the agreements with the Jewish state."

It is regrettable to see Arab regimes begging for a humiliating peace with Israel by all means and under different names and giving one concession after another to the Jewish state in exchange for false promises, said the statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

Criticising the series of meetings and negotiations that were conducted since the convening of the Arab-Israeli

peace conference in Madrid, the statement said that "nothing is being achieved towards the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242; and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the Oslo accord and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty were all poison harming the Arab nation."

The statement expressed regret that Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria are following suit and "making approaches towards Israel and begging for peace with the Jewish state under continued colonialist American pressure."

"The nation that accepts humiliation will have its dignity impaired and lost eventually, resulting in the disintegration of the nation's culture and religious faith,"

the statement said.

"We condemn agreements concluded so far or to be concluded with Israel, and consider any member of the professional unions in Jordan who normalises relations with the enemy anywhere and under any circumstances as expelled from the professional associations," said the statement.

It appealed to the Lower House of Parliament to stand firmly united in rejecting agreements with Israel, "come what may," and called on all public sectors to voice their rejection of any form of normalisation with the Jewish state, stressing that the solution lies in the hands of the masses and not with the Arab regimes which rule over them.

Anti-Israeli motive in attack on tourist

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian who stabbed an American tourist four days before a peace treaty with Israel is concluded was apparently angered because the man said he was from Israel, Jordan officials said on Sunday.

"He said he did not want to see a Jewish tourist in Jordan and that is why he committed his act," said an official. The official said security for tourists was being stepped up.

Dave Friedman, 24, an

American Jew living in Israel was stabbed in the back on Saturday by Raed Ismail, 27.

Mr. Friedman, riding on a bus with his girlfriend, suffered only scratches from the three blows and did not need hospitalisation.

Mr. Friedman, who had identified himself as Israeli, returned to Israel on Sunday.

The lone assailant, who told interrogators he acted on the spur of the moment, was caught immediately after the

attack near the main inter-city taxi stand.

The stabbing was the first such reported incident since several attacks on tourists following the killing of about 30 Arabs by an Israeli settler in Hebron in the occupied West Bank last February.

Even Jordanians who support the peace treaty say they find it difficult to instantly change their attitude toward Israel after decades of hostility.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

★ "Danza Invisible" rock concert at the Palace of Culture, King Hussein Sports City at 5:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

FILM

★ French film entitled "Le Fleuve" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Dove Siete? Io Sono Qui" (Where Are You? Here I Am) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Condominio" (Condominium) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (all

proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

VOCAL RECITAL

★ A vocal recital of folk, spiritual and American Theatre songs at the Marriott Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Future of Democracy in the Arab World" by Mr. Iyad Qattan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tawfik Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Two exhibitions: Paintings by Italian painter Armando Appaja, and a special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings of Iraqi artist Jabbar Mejbai at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Samaa Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Scripture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

★ The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery.

لنا من الالح

Rift in French ruling coalition threatens presidential hopes

PARIS (AFP) — Cracks in France's ruling conservative coalition have begun to widen alarmingly as the race for the French presidency shifts into gear, pitting the right's leading lights against each other.

Worse still for the conservatives, the in-fighting threatens to let the left — in the form of Socialist outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors — into the presidential Elisee Palace almost by default.

Six months before ballots in which the right hopes to seize back the top job in French politics after 14 years of Socialist tenure, the two main rightwing candidates have rarely seemed further apart.

Only last year Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Rally for the Republic (RPR) leader Jacques Chirac were the heroes of the right's historic landslide in legislative elections.

Their fortunes were crowned when opinion polls indicated the right was in a strong position to add the

presidency to the premiership, ending the frustrations of "cohabitation" with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

But amid increasingly open campaigning by their supporters for the April and May presidential ballots, Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac have recently been barely able to conceal their political ambitions.

Divisions have become obvious among lawmakers, who have formed clear camps within the ruling coalition, comprising the RPR and the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the junior partner.

The bickering came to a head last week in a public spat between Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, in which Mr. Juppe was accused of backing Mr. Chirac.

Although neither Mr. Balladur nor Mr. Chirac has officially declared his presidential candidacy, the premier was forced to call a political truce, warning that continued in-fighting could "paralyse" the government.

In the letter to Mr. Chirac and former president of UDF leader Valery Giscard d'Estaing, he said: "Things cannot continue in the way they have been going for the past few weeks without calling into question the majority's reputation."

"We must seek ways of boosting cohesion in the context of the presidential election," he said, adding that the two men could not "remain indifferent" to the "spectacle" of the public in-fighting.

The exposure of political dirty linen in public should have ended there. But the extent of the rifts involved became clear in the replies to his letter.

In what looked like a summons, Mr. Chirac said in a letter he needed to organise a meeting of RPR leaders, including Mr. Balladur, "at a date convenient to you," before any "tete-a-tete" meeting with the prime minister.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, who is in de facto alliance with Mr. Chirac to counter efforts by UDF members to

oust him, said he was postponing a reply to Mr. Balladur's letter, in what was seen as another snub.

The squabbles have done no good to the right's fortunes in opinion polls, which indicate that French people are increasingly doubtful that a rightwing candidate will win the presidential ballots.

One last week said only 30 per cent of French people now consider a rightwing victory to be certain, compared with 46 per cent a year ago. Today 59 per cent consider the race open, nearly double the figure of 35 per cent a year ago.

The drop comes amid a steady increase in support for Mr. Delors, who stands down as European Commission president at the end of the year and who is thought likely to stand for the French presidency.

Recent opinion polls have shown that Mr. Delors was either running neck-and-neck with Mr. Balladur or hard on his heels if the second round of the presidential were to be held now.

Russian secret service agents take sacked Azeri premier to Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian secret service agents have spirited sacked Azeri Premier Surat Guseinov and Defence Minister Ragim Gaziiev out of Azerbaijan to Russia, the Azeri News Agency Turan reported Saturday.

President Geidar Aliyev fired Mr. Guseinov on Oct. 7, accusing him of masterminding a failed coup at the start of the month.

Mr. Gaziiev was one of four former Azeri officials who broke out of jail in the capital Baku last month.

Observers said the unrest had been stirred up by Russia to try to wreck a contract undermining Moscow's traditional influence in the region.

The immediate cause of the crisis was the assassination on Sept. 29 of the deputy speaker of parliament and the head of Mr. Aliyev's personal intelligence apparatus and the jailbreak by Aliyev opponents.

Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Dzhabadov led some 200 troops backed by at least five tanks and other armoured vehicles in an up-

rising in Baku.

Mr. Aliyev, who cut short a trip to the United Nations in New York to deal with the crisis, said Mr. Guseinov was in league with former President Ayaz Mutalibov, in exile in Moscow, to plot his overthrow.

Mr. Mutalibov is regarded by diplomatic and Azeri political observers as the man Russia would most like to see in power.

Mr. Guseinov, the former director of a textile factory, led troops from his stronghold in the country's second city, Gyandzha, to take power in Baku in a bloodless coup in 1993.

Mr. Aliyev came to power on the back of the coup, and while he ostensibly gave Mr. Guseinov the post of prime minister with responsibility for the security ministries, Mr. Guseinov was swiftly sidelined by Mr. Aliyev.

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Sole survivor of Midway attack dead at 77

ATLANTA (R) — An American World War II aviator who became a national hero as the only member of his squadron to survive a famous attack on Japanese warships during the Battle of Midway has died at age 77.

George Gay Jr. died Friday of a heart attack in an Atlanta hospital, his family members said.

Mr. Gay, of Marietta, Georgia, earned his place in history by bobbing up and down in the ocean for 30 hours as the battle — which became the turning point of the war in the Pacific — raged around him.

At the time, Mr. Gay was a 25-year-old naval pilot with Torpedo Squadron 8, which joined other planes in attacking a Japanese aircraft carrier task force near Midway Island on June 4, 1942.

Of the squadron's 30 men, Gay was the only one to

survive the assault.

Wounded, and wearing a lifejacket, he watched American dive bombers descend from the skies to attack the Japanese.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper quoted him as saying he found himself "cheering and hollering with every hit" as he floated in the ocean.

Despite the fate of Gay's squadron, Japan's Imperial Navy lost three carriers in the battle and never fully recovered.

His daughter, Sandra Heimbach, told Reuters that Mr. Gay will be cremated and that, at his own request, his ashes will be spread over the Midway battle site so he can rest in peace with "his buddies."

"My father always maintained that he was not a hero, but that the men who died at Midway were the heroes,"

Mr. Heimbach said.

Following the battle, fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz made Mr. Gay his spokesman in spreading his firsthand account of the Midway victory back in the United States.

He appeared on the cover of Life magazine's Aug. 13, 1942, issue and on radio shows including Nelson Eddy and Don McNeil's Breakfast Club.

After World War II, Mr. Gay was discharged as a lieutenant and worked as a TWA pilot for 30 years, flying worldwide routes from 1947 until he retired at the age of 60 in 1977.

He also made about one speech a month to civic groups around the country, retelling his Midway experiences and calling for greater U.S. military preparedness. He accepted only his expenses as payment.

Charles had '3 affairs with Camilla'

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles had three separate affairs with Camilla Parker Bowles, two before he married Princess Diana and the third when he felt his marriage had broken down for good, the prince's authorised biography said Sunday.

In the latest episode of Britain's royal soap opera, excerpts from the biography published in the Sunday Times also said he initiated the separation from Princess Diana after he felt he was being effectively denied access to their two sons.

"Prince had three separate love affairs with Parker Bowles," read a front-page headline in the newspaper's first edition, held back from newsstands for nearly three hours to prevent rival newspapers coming up with spoiling stories.

The extracts tell how Prince Charles first had an affair with Mrs. Parker Bowles — then Camilla Shand — in 1972, when he was a young naval officer. The second relationship with Camilla, now married to Andrew Parker Bowles, was in the late 1970s and ended just before his marriage in 1981 to Lady Diana Spencer.

Prince Charles turned to his old flame again at the end of 1986 or early in 1987, after he felt his marriage to Princess Diana had irretrievably

broken down, the extracts of the book by respected journalist and broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby said.

"That they loved each other was not in any doubt: In Camilla Parker Bowles, the prince found the warmth, the understanding and the steadiness for which he had always longed and had never been able to find with any other person," Mr. Dimbleby wrote.

"Their relationship... was later to be portrayed merely as a tawdry affair," he wrote. "For the prince, however, it was a vital source of strength to a man who had been saddened beyond words by a failure for which he invariably blamed himself."

The biography also said Prince Charles intends to create a new royal House of Mountbatten-Windsor after he is crowned king ending the exclusive use of the Windsor name, established in 1917 by King George V. Queen Elizabeth II's grandfather.

The Sunday Times, which said Prince Charles had checked Mr. Dimbleby's manuscript for factual accuracy, said the move was intended as a tribute to Lord Mountbatten, the prince's mentor who was killed by an IRA bomb 15 years ago.

Other Sunday newspapers also published various royal "scoops," mostly unsourced,

ranging from the Mail On Sunday's report claiming Prince Charles believed his parents did not trust him to be king to the News Of The World's five pages of photos of the couple frolicking on a Caribbean beach in 1982.

It branded him "the liar king," saying the photos gave the lie to his revelation in last Sunday's excerpts of the biography that he never loved Princess Diana and was forced into marrying her by his domineering father, Prince Philip.

Prince Charles Princess Diana had two sons but the marriage foundered and they formally separated in December 1992.

But the couple took the unusual step last week of denying, through their lawyers, that they were planning to divorce. The denial was prompted by a French magazine report that they had agreed a \$24.5 million divorce settlement.

The Sunday Telegraph said Prince Charles had told friends he now regretted his decision to help Mr. Dimbleby with the biography, apparently concerned that views expressed by other people in the book were mistaken for his own — especially those concerning his relationship with his parents and Princess Diana.

Greece holds runoff local elections

ATHENS (AFP) — Greeks voted in runoff local elections Sunday, a week after the first round was marred by unprecedented chaos but the interior minister said there were "no problems" this time.

The Greek government put officials on alert and ordered military helicopters on standby as election supervisors were told to fulfill their duties "as an absolute priority."

In the first round of voting last Sunday 2,000 of them, mainly lawyers, had failed to show up claiming they were underpaid.

Their absence caused 83 booths in Athens and Piraeus to remain closed while 1,000 opened late and 18,000 electors had to wait until Wednesday to cast their vote.

On Sunday polling booths opened at sunrise, or 6:41 a.m. (0441 GMT) and were closed at sunset, or 5:37 p.m. (1537 GMT).

Interior Minister Costas Skandalidis said in the morning "no problems" had been reported so far.

The Interior Ministry appointed 700 temporary election supervisors and a further 3,000 citizens to ensure that votes get cast.

Around 20 police vehicles have been mobilised for their transportation.

Most election supervisors were at their posts Sunday.

While Mr. Clinton did not have to sign the memorandum to put the ban on guns in schools into effect, the action served to dramatise his efforts to reduce crime, which most voters regard as America's number one problem.

The new law was co-sponsored by Senator Diane Feinstein, a California Democrat fighting to retain her Senate seat against a strong challenge from Republican Michael Huffington.

Ms. Feinstein said 135,000 guns are brought into America's schools every day. She added that since Los Angeles adopted a zero tolerance policy in 1993, it has seen a 27 per cent decrease in gun possession by student and a 34 per cent decrease in gun-related violence.

Mr. Clinton was due to speak at a fundraising dinner for Kathleen Brown, Democratic candidate for California governor. He is also scheduled to visit Washington state and Ohio during his three-day campaign swing.

Ms. Brown trails Republican governor Pete Wilson in pre-election opinion polls, and Republican sources said Mr. Wilson was so confident of victory that he was beginning to share his campaign funds with other Republican candidates.

Thirty-five of the 100 Senate seats and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs in the upcoming election, as are 36 state governorships. Mr. Clinton is trying to hold off a Republican bid to take over the Senate and House for the first time in 40 years.

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Mother of a high school girl Lee Ji-Hyon who was killed in Friday's bridge collapse weeps before sending her daughter off for cremation with her portrait and a doll on Sunday.

5 officials arrested in probe into Seoul bridge collapse

SEOUL (AFP) — Five municipal officials were arrested Sunday in an extensive probe into Friday's disastrous rush-hour bridge collapse here as navy frogmen scoured the muddy bed of the Han River for missing bodies and Seoul buried its dead.

Prosecutors said five employees in the capital's bridge management department were arrested early Sunday and charged with negligence. Six others were under investigation.

The probe has widened to investigate cheating and substandard engineering in the construction of major bridges across the country under orders by President Kim Young-Sam, whose image as a corruption buster was seriously undermined by the disaster.

The morning collapse of the 15-year-old bridge, used daily by tens of thousands of city commuters, left 32 people dead, nine of them girls on their way to school, and 17 others injured.

On Sunday, funeral services for the victims were held in hospitals and at the Muhak Girls' High School, eight of whose students died.

Some 500 police and navy officers, helped by helicopter and patrol craft, were mobilised in a massive dragging and salvage operation downriver of the bridge for the third straight day, but no more bodies had been found as of mid-Sunday.

In a snap order Saturday, Mr. Kim called for thorough checks of all bridges and tunnels across South Korea, promising to blacklist any building contractor found guilty of substandard construction.

Mr. Kim also fired Seoul Mayor Lee Won-Jong, a long-time confidant, but the sacking failed to calm public anger as reports poured in of negligence, dereliction of duty, unchecked overloading and slipshod maintenance.

Investigators said construction firms and subcontractors had in some cases skimmed as much as 70 per cent of project bidding prices.

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U.S. floodwaters recede but toll rises

HOUSTON (R) — Floodwaters receded under clearing skies Saturday in most of southeastern Texas, but authorities were battling a major oil spill from three pipeline ruptures near Houston caused by this week's flooding that claimed at least 19 lives.

Federal authorities said Saturday that up to 1.5 million gallons (5,678,100 litres) of heating oil, crude oil and gasoline may have leaked from three of seven damaged pipelines in the San Jacinto River.

The death toll from the floods in southeastern Texas reached 19 as four-year-old Gerald Baker was found drowned in a fast-flowing creek in Fort Bend County southwest of Houston.

Flash flooding also struck 250 miles (400-km) north in the Dallas area where authorities said an 11-year-old boy in Balch Springs died Friday night after slipping into a storm drain.

The body of a 37-year-old woman was also found Saturday in the Dallas area where she was reported missing Friday night after being swept away by floodwaters.

The storm dropped up to three inches (7.5-cm) of rain in the Dallas region Friday, causing street flooding and minor property damage from hailstones estimated to be two-inches (5-cm) wide.

The system moved south, dropping more rain overnight on waterlogged southeastern Texas, inundated by more than 20 inches (50-cm) of rainfall earlier this week that drove an estimated 12,000 people from their homes.

President Bill Clinton has so far named 33 southeastern Texas counties as official disaster areas.

The weather was clearing on Saturday and Weather Research Centre meteorolog-

ist Karen Bieszke said: "It looks like it should be a clear weekend."

In the flooded San Jacinto River near Houston, the coast guard said perhaps up to 210,000 gallons (800,000 litres) of crude oil could escape from the damaged section of the Texaco Pipeline.

Four other pipelines were either carrying natural gas or hazardous materials that were removed before the ruptures.

"We are categorising this as a major spill," Coast Guard Captain Richard Ford told a news conference.

The Texaco Pipeline was adjacent to two Colonial Pipeline Company fuel pipelines that ruptured Thursday, creating a spectacular blaze in which more than 100 people were treated for minor injuries or respiratory problems.

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Bride will be too precious to be left alone

SINGAPORE (AFP) — \$50,000 are forever. Or at least for a day. When celebrity TV actress Yang Li and Li Naixing got married on Nov. 11, the bride's flowing off-white wedding gown will be studded with about 500 diamonds worth about 2 million Singapore dollars (U.S.\$1.4 million). "I will have to keep looking at the floor to make sure none of the diamonds drop off," said Li, who has been voted the most popular male actor three times. The jewelry will be loaned by a local shop, which also is giving the bride — for a day — rubies, sapphires, soft sea pearls and aquamarine pearls, the tabloid New Paper reported Saturday. Insurance is expected to run into tens of thousands of dollars. Some 1,200 people are expected at the wedding and reception. Singapore Television's Chinese drama division will stop all filming that night so all staffers can attend the glittering wedding. The bride will wear seven other outfits that day, including a gold-coloured miniskirt and a fire-engine-red long gown. One of Ms. Li's jackets will be studded with 36 diamonds, the New Paper said.

Man hits lottery jackpot

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. (AP) — What could have been worst day of a man's turned out to be one of his luckiest. Ted Yackera learned Sept. 13 that he didn't have cancer. Hours later, he won \$9 million in Pennsylvania's wild card lottery. "I went through a lot that week," Mr. Yackera said of extensive tests before his doctor declared him cancer free. "After the cancer scare, I was feeling great, but after the lottery I was really trying to hold it together." Mr. Yackera, 34, picked up a check for \$305,000, the first installment of the jackpot. "I'm a very lucky man and I thank God for everything that's happened." His immediate plans include a trip to Disney World and early retirement from his job as a school district business manager. After that, he might build a pinball arcade or open a McDonald's franchise.

Hard campaign leads to desired result — defeat

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Nominated for a city council seat against her will, Elaine Price waged a campaign against herself — successfully. She lost. "I put up signs, 'don't vote for Elaine Price. I told everyone who came in (her store), 'don't vote for me,'" said Ms. Price, a liquor store owner who lives in Coffman Cove, population 243, on southeast Alaska's Prince of Wales Island. Her problem began with the municipal election on Oct. 4. According to Coffman Cove City clerk Michelle Page, no one filed for the council seat, and none of the write-in candidates received the necessary 40 per cent of the vote. Caroline Hodges just missed. She got 14 votes, or 38 per cent. Five voters wrote in Ms. Price's name. Under city law, the top two vote-getters, willing or not, have a runoff. That left Ms. Price steamed. "I felt like I had a right to say whether I wanted to be a candidate," Ms. Price said. Not really, said the state attorney general's office, which advised the city clerk to keep Ms. Price's name on the ballot. Ms. Price, who had already served three years on the council and four years on the southeast island school board, said: "I felt I had done my share."

Bus drivers get rubber gloves against AIDS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AFP) — Bus drivers in Broward County, Florida have been issued with rubber gloves after complaining that they are scared of catching AIDS from dirty tickets. Several of the county's 400 drivers said they had been obliged to handle tickets soiled with blood or other body secretions which might be contaminated with the HIV believed to cause acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). "Some people have the transfers in their mouths, they have them down their pants or in their bras. You don't want to think where they've had them," said driver Tillman. The company which issued the gloves Friday said drivers could use them at their own discretion.



A man fights with a boy after the boy tried to cut to the front of the line of people waiting for water in Port-au-Prince. Many Haitians have to wait in line for

water due to inadequate facilities and inadequate distribution of water (AFP photo)

Human rights observers return to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — International Human rights monitors expelled from Haiti in July by the military government returned Saturday to investigate violations throughout the country, a spokesman said.

Haiti's greatly weakened army has said it will search the homes of people suspected of having illegal arms beginning next week and warned suspects to turn in their firearms or face arrest.

Some 13 observers and four administrative staff from the rights mission left the neighbouring Dominican Republic by car Saturday morning and arrived in the Haitian capital on Saturday afternoon, said deputy head of the mission Tiedebe Drame.

He said it was hoped eventually to increase the number of rights monitors throughout Haiti to about 300.

Mr. Drame said the joint United Nations/Organisation of American States mission would begin investigating human rights violations within 10 days.

About 100 observers and staff members fled to the Dominican Republic in July after being expelled by the military regime in control at the time.

The climate for the mission's return was created by the arrival of 15,000 American soldiers in Haiti to insure a peaceful transition to democracy and the resignation of the generals who led a military coup in 1991.

The transition was completed last week with the return to power of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Presidential aides said Mr. Aristide met business and political figures at the national palace on Saturday morning to review the week's events and prepare for the coming week.

Political experts have said it was important for Mr. Aristide to name a new prime minister quickly to succeed

caretaker Prime Minister Robert Malval to demonstrate that he is capable of taking decisive action and is beginning to address the issue of Haiti's recovery.

Haiti's army, now purged of most of the anti-Aristide top ranks, in a statement Friday urged people with illegal arms to turn them in. It said the homes of people suspected of holding illegal weapons would be searched from next week and violators would be arrested.

The last contingent of nearly 1,000 Bangladeshi soldiers flew Saturday to Haiti to join a multinational force assigned to keep the peace in the Caribbean nation.

About 330 Bangladeshi soldiers flew Saturday to Haiti to join a multinational force assigned to keep the peace in the Caribbean nation. Another 136 peacekeepers from Guatemala are to fly Monday to Haiti.

Besides the Bangladeshis, there are 266 peacekeepers from six Caribbean countries deployed in Haiti, where they help control crowds, administer first aid and maintain order.

About 17,000 U.S. troops are now in Haiti, sent to usher out coup leaders and help in last weekend's return of Mr. Aristide.

Also deployed in Haiti after training in Puerto Rico are 594 police monitors from 15 countries, said another spokesman, Marine Maj. John Kayser.

The monitors supervise Haiti's police and will oversee the transition to a civilian-led force.

The Haitian police must be purged of members guilty of human rights violations under the three-year regime of the coup leaders. The first class of 375 policemen cleared via this review process will begin retraining at a new police academy Monday.

16 tanker crew feared dead after Philippine typhoon

MANILA (R) — Sixteen crewmen from an oil tanker which broke in two and sank west of the Philippines after being battered by typhoon Teresa have not been found and are feared dead, rescue officials said on Sunday.

Twenty crewmen of the 38,263-tonne Maltese-registered tanker Thanassis were picked up by rescue ships in the South China Sea, a Coast Guard official said by phone. One crewman earlier reported floating in the water dead was rescued alive.

"The 16 remain unaccounted for. Their chances for surviving are decreasing. We just don't know," one rescue official said.

High waves whipped up by the typhoon's 150-kph (90-mph) winds broke the ship in half. Three ships and two planes were still in the area searching for the remaining crew.

The vessel was on its way to Singapore with a cargo of fuel oil from Nakhodka in Russia's Pacific Far East. An oil slick could be seen from the air but was breaking up in the rough seas, a Hong Kong Marine Rescue official said.

Teresa wreaked havoc in Manila and across a wide swath of the main island of Luzon, killing nine people, making thousands homeless, toppling trees and power lines and blacking out much of Manila.

Eight of the victims died when trees or walls fell on them. One 70-year-old man in Pangasinan province north of Manila was killed by a stroke at the height of the typhoon.

More than 48 hours after

the typhoon battered Manila and parts of Luzon Island, many areas of the capital still had no power and some areas were without water.

Hundreds queued for hours Saturday and Sunday for water.

"I made 350 pesos (\$14) hauling water yesterday," one man in the Las Pinas district of Manila said Sunday.

Uprooted trees littered city streets as public utility crews tried to restore electric power in Manila.

"The power just came on and I barely had time to take a bath when it went out again," a resident of the Mandaluyong district of Manila told a radio call-in show Sunday.

The toll from the storm may rise as reports reach the

capital from isolated areas such as Polillo Island, which bore the brunt of the typhoon. More than 90 per cent of the houses on Polillo, which faces the Pacific Ocean, were destroyed.

Damage to crops and property has been estimated at almost \$16 million, a relief official said.

President Fidel Ramos declared a state of calamity Saturday in Manila and surrounding provinces. Heavy rains triggered mudflows of volcanic debris from Mount Pinatubo and forced hundreds of families to flee to higher ground.

A second storm, typhoon Verne, was in the Pacific and headed towards the northern edge of Luzon Island, where it could cause further damage to crops and houses.

37% of Swedes for, 37% against joining EU — poll

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A poll published Sunday in the daily Goeteborgs-Posten showed that 37 per cent of Swedes are in favour of joining the European Union (EU) and an equal number are opposed.

It added that 26 per cent are undecided.

The poll, conducted by the Sifo Institute between Monday and Thursday of last week, showed that within a

two-week period, the number of those opposed to the EU has gone down from 40 per cent to 37 per cent, while the number of those in favour has remained unchanged.

Of the 1,000 people interviewed for the poll, 88 per cent said they would go out and vote and had the referendum on joining the EU taken place the day of the interview.

The referendum vote is

scheduled for Nov. 13.

In Oslo, an opinion poll said Sunday less than 30 per cent of Norwegians want to join the European Union while 46 per cent are against it.

The poll sponsored by the Oslo daily Dagbladet showed that the outcome in Finland where 56.9 per cent voted on Oct. 16 in favour of EU membership, had done little

to influence support for the EU in Norway.

In October support for joining the EU declined by one per cent in Norway slipping from 30 to 29 per cent. The number of those opposed rose by two per cent from 44 to 46 per cent.

But one person in four is still undecided. The referendum will be held in Norway on Nov. 28.

Hungary's leaders, once enemies, mark 1956 revolt

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's president and prime minister, enemies at the time of their country's 1956 uprising, stood shoulder to shoulder Sunday to mark the anniversary of the bloody revolt against Communist rule.

President Arpad Goncz, once sentenced to death for joining the uprising that was smashed by Soviet tanks, and Prime Minister Gyula Horn, who once served in the militia that helped restore Communist control, together laid a wreath at the cemetery where prominent victims of 1956 now lie.

Calls at the ceremony for past division to be set aside clearly rankled some and they expressed bitterness at the presence of pro-Moscow Communists at the cemetery.

Mr. Goncz was flanked by Zoltan Gal, like Mr. Horn an official from the reform Communist government ousted in 1990 who made the political

evolution to Social Democrat and returned to power after a four-year hiatus of conservative rule.

Voters fed up with hardship during Hungary's transition to a market economy and disenchanted with the previous centre-right government gave the revamped Socialists a parliamentary majority in May.

On a crisp autumn day, Mr. Gal, parliament speaker, urged Hungarians to strive for reconciliation and unity, say martyrs of the 1956 uprising would not have wanted the country to remain divided by the past.

Hungary should now take its place in Europe he said, adding "Hungary has come a great way toward Europe since the events of 1956."

Mr. Horn says he only guarded bridges and other key installations as a member of the militia that helped mop up resistance after Soviet

tanks crushed the revolt. It was the second time he had placed a wreath at the plot.

At a ceremony in June heavy with political significance, he and Erzsébet Nagy, daughter of Imre Nagy, the prime minister at the time of uprising and a prominent symbol of Hungarian resistance, paid their respects at the cemetery.

The occasion was the 36th anniversary of Mr. Nagy's execution at the hands of pro-Moscow Communists.

"We need reconciliation between people who stood on different sides in 1956," he said at the time. "There were victims, and there were victims on both sides. We need reconciliation between political opponents because without it, we cannot lead this country out of the crisis it is in now."

Although the Socialists victory in May's elections indicates most Hungarians are

ready to forgive and forget, Mr. Horn's presence at Sunday's ceremony rankled for some.

"Those people who were beating us, all the AVH (secret police) guys, are standing here too," said one 75-year-old man who declined to give his name but who said he spent nine years as a political prisoner under Communist rule.

"Grey-haired Gabor Danko also took umbrage. "Those people who were executioners should not pretend to be revolutionaries now," he grumbled.

Activists from Hungary's radical right, which the elections in May showed does not enjoy widespread political support, organised separate commemorations of the anniversary.

One rally drew around 100 people, many of them sporting shorn heads typical of extreme rightists.

Bosnia seeks guarantees for Igman road protection

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Bosnian government Sunday sought guarantees from the U.N. that its planned withdrawal of forces from a demilitarised zone (DMZ) on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo, would not jeopardise their one and only route out of the city.

The commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, French General Herve Gobillard, met with General Vahid Karavelic, commander of the Bosnian 1st Army Corps, to discuss the military situation in the wake of Saturday's political agreement on the withdrawal of Bosnian troops from the Igman DMZ, a U.N. spokesman said.

Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic Saturday agreed to the withdrawal of some 500 soldiers who had infiltrated the area in breach of the DMZ accord, following talks here with U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi.

But while Mr. Akashi made it plain he hoped the pull-out, due to start at noon Monday, would be completed within 24 to 36 hours, Mr. Ganic insisted that a total withdrawal would not take place until the U.N. guaranteed the safety of the Sarajevo lifeline — a winding mountain track on which Bosnian convoys must run a gauntlet of Serb machine-gun fire.

A senior U.N. officer insisted Sunday that "there were no guarantee" and "no linkage" between the withdrawal of the Bosnian soldiers and measures that could be taken by UNPROFOR.

Once the Bosnian soldiers have left the DMZ "all security measures are open to consideration," he said.

The withdrawal would help stabilise the military situation around Sarajevo, he added.

Another U.N. officer indicated that French forces responsible for the Igman sector might deploy additional troops to secure the area and establish more numerous observation posts to prevent Serb infiltrations.

The Bosnian Serbs had earlier threatened a direct attack on Muslim-led forces on Igman if these did not withdraw from the wedge-

shaped DMZ, established in August 1993 to stop an all-out Serb offensive from securing a complete stranglehold on Sarajevo.

The Mount Igman route is in effect Sarajevo's Ho Chi Minh trail, offering a backdoor into the otherwise blockaded city and allowing government forces to ferry in supplies and dispatch troops to other parts of the federation.

In contrast, U.N. convoys have to rely on the goodwill of the Serbs to enter the city by way of the main roads which cross Serb-held territory and to fly in supplies to Sarajevo Airport within rifle-fire range of Serb soldiers.

The Serbs have recently imposed numerous restrictions on U.N. convoys — notably targeting fuel shipments — but UNPROFOR officers said Sunday they felt confident that the UNPROFOR and UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) convoys would be given greater freedom of movement in the wake of Mr. Akashi's meeting Saturday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in his Pale stronghold.

Meanwhile U.N. officials said Sunday the Bosnian government army's activities are destabilising the military situation around Sarajevo

and placing the capital's population at great risk.

The officials cited Bosnian army violations of a demilitarised zone (DMZ) in the mountains west of the city, sporadic firing of heavy weapons and trench-digging activities — all of which violate existing agreements.

"Any increase in the level of conflict or any unravelling of an already existing agreement is bound to destabilise the security situation in Sarajevo," said a senior U.N. officer.

"If the Bosnian army doesn't move out of the DMZ and stop these other violations then all these arrangements for the security of Sarajevo could collapse."

Bosnian Serb forces encircled Sarajevo in April 1992 in the opening days of the Bosnian war.

They hit the capital with heavy artillery and sniper fire, killing 10,000 residents and wounding 50,000 others, until last February when they pulled their big guns out of range after NATO threatened air strikes following a market blast that killed 68.

Conditions around the city gradually improved as utilities were restored, tram service resumed and routes for commercial goods were opened.

But the situation began to deteriorate again in August after Bosnian Serbs rejected an international peace plan to end the war and neighbouring Yugoslavia — once their staunchest ally — sealed the border to fuel and military supplies.

Bosnian Serb forces began firing on the main government supply route into the city, effectively closing it.

Muslim-led government troops eventually retaliated by occupying a demilitarised zone on Mount Igman, from which they can fire onto a Serb supply route into the town of Trnovo.

Government forces also advanced — sometimes by blasting trenches through solid rock — to positions from which they could fire on two other Serb supply routes, one from Pale to Vogosca and the other from Pale to Lukavica.

U.N. officials told reporters Sunday that Bosnian Serb army restraint in response to these provocations could soon evaporate, plunging Sarajevo back into a cycle of war that peacekeepers would be powerless to prevent.

The government is demanding U.N. peacekeepers provide greater security for the Igman logistics road.



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (right) meets with U.N. special envoy for former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi (left), head of the UNPROFOR Civil Affairs Sergio Vieira de Mello (2nd left) and UNPROFOR commander-in-chief for Bosnia, General Michael Rose (3rd left) in Pale, the capital of the self-styled Bosnian Serb Republic (AFP photo)

Korea is still 'very explosive' — Shalikashvili

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The top U.S. military officer says North Korea's massive deployment of conventional forces near South Korea's border is potentially a "very explosive situation," the Washington Post reported in Sunday editions.

General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he is "well satisfied" with the agreement North Korea signed Friday to freeze and eventually dismantle facilities capable of producing nuclear weapons, according to the

Post.

But the general said that North Korea's large conventional offensive capability continues to pose "a considerable threat" and that there is no sign Pyongyang's secretive leadership has abandoned plans to conquer South Korea, the paper said.

The Post said that Gen. Shalikashvili made his remarks in an interview in Manila, where he is attending ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of General Douglas MacArthur's invasion of the Japanese-

occupied Philippines during World War II.

The general said North Korea in the last few years has been building an offensive capability that is "very threatening" to the United States and to South Korea, according to the paper.

Gen. Shalikashvili said North Korea is building "one of the world's largest unconventional warfare capabilities, whose only purpose is to be offensive in nature," the Post said.

The paper said that the effort includes the training of

about 60,000 special forces trained to infiltrate deep into South Korea to "threaten American and South Korean installations and cause sabotage and turmoil."

The forces include airborne units, naval components close to the demilitarized zone on both coasts, and ground units trained in penetrating the world's most heavily fortified border, according to the paper.

"They're all very close, very ready and very threatening," Gen. Shalikashvili said.

Sinn Fein deputy leader arrives in London

LONDON (Agencies) — Deputy Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness arrived here Monday from Belfast less than 48 hours after Britain decided to lift a ban on him and the leader of the IRA's political arm Gerry Adams.

Mr. McGuinness is due to take part in a BBC-Television programme on Sunday afternoon.

On his arrival, Mr. McGuinness said British Prime Minister John Major's decision to lift the exclusion orders on Sinn Fein leaders was "very sensible."

"I think it was a very sensible decision that Mr. Major decided to lift the exclusion orders... It means I can go to Britain and speak to the British people about the peace process and about the reality of Britain's involvement in our country," Mr. McGuinness said.

On Friday Mr. Major acknowledged in a speech in Belfast that a ceasefire proclaimed on Sept. 1 by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was permanent and that the ban on Sinn Fein leaders was no longer justified.

The move opens the way for exploratory talks with Sinn Fein to open before the end of the year.

Britain had hitherto refused to negotiate with Sinn Fein until the IRA declared a ceasefire and renounced violence.

The delegation heading to the United States will travel to New York, Boston and Washington to discuss the peace process.

David Ervine, a PUP representative, said he hopes the

group will be able to meet with U.S. government officials.

The trip comes at the heels of a similar two-week visit by Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm.

In a separate development, anti-terrorist officers directed raids across southern Ireland Saturday against possible successors to the Irish Republican Army, police said.

The Garda Siochana, the Irish Republic's national police force, identified the reason behind the raids as the formation of a new Irish Republican group committed to launching gun and bomb attacks within British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Several hundred officers raided about 50 homes and seized documents, a gun and hundreds of rounds of

ammunition, the Garda said in a statement. Several men were arrested and would be interrogated over the next two days.

The operations took place in southwest Ireland, a traditional backwater for Irish Republican Army weapons dumps, and in counties Louth and Monaghan along the Irish border, where many IRA fugitives from Northern Ireland have second homes.

The statement said the new group was styling itself the Irish National Republican Army, or INRA, and composed partly of IRA dissidents opposed to current peacekeeping efforts.

Such a development would undermine the fragile search for peace in Northern Ireland, which requires a non-violent atmosphere to develop.

British Prime Minister John Major (centre) leaves the Bow Street mall in the mainly Protestant town of Lisburn, 20km south of Belfast, amid tight security. During the visit, Mr. Major said the peace process had made a "quantum leap forward" with his announcement of imminent talks with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Boycott is wrong tool

WHEN POLITICAL parties were licensed nearly two years ago, the rules of political activities were made clear to all who wanted to play. The political parties accepted these rules. They agreed to abide by the Constitution, the law and the National Charter.

The system thus allowed room for political activists to express their views from within. Parliament is a branch of government in which political parties with any popular base are represented. Through the legislature, all these political trends could make their stands known, articulate these views and lobby for them. If these views have a majority, they would prevail. If not, they will be defeated by those with greater support. Such are the rules of democracy. The majority gets its opinions through, the minority respects the outcome.

This is why we find the boycotting of some Islamist deputies of the opening session of Parliament Saturday a move that seems to be motivated by political rigidity and immature politics.

The six Islamic Action Front deputies who boycotted the session did not do much to serve the interest of the Kingdom by their behaviour. They are representatives of the people. If they believe the peace treaty conflicts with the interest of the Kingdom, they should fight it — not with emotional theatrics, though, but with solid reasoning that can explain the advantages and disadvantages of the peace treaty. In any case, instead of boycotting the King's speech from the Throne, they should have opted to exercise their protest in other forms and means available to them, like voting against the treaty when it is presented to them, or they could withhold confidence from the government itself.

The Islamist and other leftist and pan-Arabist deputies who oppose peace with Israel have made a point of asserting their commitment to democracy. All indications are that they are not the majority in Parliament. They should accept that and work out a programme through which they can rely on reason to muster more support if what they believe is right.

The peace opponents will not be doing their job of protecting the interests of their constituencies by clinging to their ideology oblivious to the realities of the day.

These realities are that peace is inevitable, that the peace treaty with Israel is going to be ratified by Parliament and that the Kingdom is more than in need of preparing itself for the new era.

Here is where the peace opponents' efforts should be directed. They themselves speak of the danger of Israeli domination of the region in times of peace due to Israel's superiority in the economic, military, trade, and technological fields. They will not stop this domination by cursing the darkness and preaching against peace. This can be done through improving the performance of our economy, equipping future generations with solid education and skills and, in short, putting our house in order. In that respect, what needs to be done is enormous.

The opponents of peace will gain more credibility by articulating programmes to deal with the challenges that the nation will face. That has yet to be done. Meanwhile, rocking the boat will only hurt the Kingdom and its interests and will expose the Kingdom to the dangers of domination by Israel.

Peace is coming to the area with a force that the opposition will not be able to stop. Thus, the opponents of peace should not engage themselves in a losing battle. They should focus on areas where their efforts can bear fruit. Dealing with the challenges of peace is an area where Jordan can still launch a fruitful effort. The opposition should contribute to this effort, not bury itself in the bubble of blind ideologies to the detriment of the whole nation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WAS perhaps a coincidence that while the Jordanian and Israeli government were putting the finishing touches on their peace treaty, which would supposedly restore Jordan's water rights, the largest part of the capital Amman faced long periods of disruption of water supplies, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, Sunday. Just before the disruption of the supplies, the Jordan Valley farmlands were reported to have been flooded with rain water that blocked the King Abdullah Canal, which the Ministry of Water and Irrigation said would be cleared within 48 hours, added the writer. But, he said, two weeks after the blockage, matters still were not put right and neither were water supplies to Amman, giving rise to questions of whether the peace treaty has anything to do with the disruption of water supplies. People should get their share of water for all domestic and other purposes because it is an essential commodity for life and people have been led to believe that the peace treaty would ensure more rather than less supplies of water, argued the writer.

Human Rights File

By Waleed Sadi

All is not well with U.N. human rights organisation

SEVERAL YEARS ago, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva caused a fury among U.N. human rights activists when he called for streamlining the U.N. human rights system by cutting down on duplication and overlapping. Among other things, he called for the elimination altogether of the U.N. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva was not only concerned about the fact that the sub-commission's name has not much to do with its functions and mandate but rather because what it does is for all intents and purposes superfluous. The Economic and Social Council created this particular body to assist the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the principal U.N. organ on human rights by preparing studies and examining systematic and human rights violations for consideration by the commission itself in due course. The commission ends up going through the same terrain at considerable cost and time of the international organisation.

Both bodies also conduct their functions through a string of special rapporteurs who for the most part do not carry out their mandate themselves but rely on the work of the Human Rights Centre in Geneva and the advisers that are recruited at considerable cost to the United Nations to assist these special rapporteurs do their work. What probably infuriated the candid American ambassador was not only the waste of time but the quality of the studies that emerge from all these activities. Drawing on the cost ineffectiveness of the sub-commission and other human rights activities, the ambassador spearheaded the call for revamping the U.N. human rights activities altogether from A to Z.

His appeal of course went unheeded and many delegations, including Western ones from Europe, fought tooth and nail his efforts to rock the boat. Everyone, it seems, wanted things to remain as they were because they got used

to the system functioning in the same old ways.

In retrospect, it is unfortunate that the repeated calls for overhauling the U.N. human rights system went unanswered. What the U.S. touched upon in that early era is only the tip of the iceberg. If anybody tells you all is well with the U.N. Centre on Human Rights or that the U.N. or treaty human rights bodies carry out their tasks in an effective way is simply avoiding the truth. Take for example the proliferation of human rights treaty bodies.

There are ever increasing bodies that monitor treaties on racial discrimination, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, rights of the child, rights of women, torture, to name only a few. The trend to create more and more of such bodies as more and more conventions, sub-conventions and auxiliary treaties are drafted and adopted. Most if not all of these bodies' scope of invest overlaps with the functions of other committees. Whoever says therefore that there is no duplication of effort within the U.N. system on human rights is not privy to what is really going on there.

It is really high time that the repeated calls for overhauling the U.N. human rights activities be taken seriously. There is now a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, a newly created post that is supposed to put more sense and coordination into the human rights activities of the international organisation. Unfortunately, the former Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Jose Ayala who was elected by the U.N. General Assembly last year to perform this task has not been given enough authority or funding to carry out this work. There is hope that this session of the General Assembly would rectify these shortcomings and accord Mr. Ayala the necessary tools to attain the required objectives. Otherwise, the U.N. system on human rights would remain where it is, mostly a talking machine that ends up obtaining only a fraction of what it had set out to accomplish.

By Graham Usher

The PLO opposition: Rebels without a constituency

SINCE OSLO, most analyses of the Palestinian political scene have focused on the declining fortunes of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in its struggle to transform itself from a national liberation movement into a political organisation fit for nation-building. One year on from the Washington ceremony, any dispassionate account of the Oslo process would have to admit that the results so far have been unimpressive. If the return of Mr. Arafat to Gaza and Jericho and the installation of a Palestine National Authority (PNA) have arrested the decline somewhat in the occupied territories, the plain fact is that these — coupled with the 6,000-strong Palestinian police — are largely all that remains of the PLO in any unified sense.

Apart from sections of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement and the minuscule Fida party, all of the PLO's main factions have now come out against Oslo, particularly in the version amended by the three Cairo agreements signed in February, April and May. Meanwhile, in Amman in August, 171 "prominent Palestinians" — including 82 members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — swore to resist any change to the Palestinian Charter, declaring that Mr. Arafat no longer had "the authority to speak in the name of the PLO or commit it to anything."

These monumental ruptures, however, have to a large extent concealed the plight of the PLO opposition, particularly its Marxist Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP and DFLP). Yet these, too, are part of the current crisis of Palestinian national politics, constricted, no less than Fatah, by organisation and ideology that are unable to come to grips with either the new realities thrown up by self-rule or, generally, by the U.S.-inspired security order envisioned for the region in the aftermath of the Soviet collapse and the Gulf war.

The upshot — in the year after Oslo — has been opposition politics in the territories marked by theoretical dogma and organisational sclerosis.

Incompatibility of aims

The initial response of both the PFLP and the DFLP to Oslo was to resign from all PLO bodies and form a rejectionist bloc, along with the Islamist Hamas and Islamic Jihad and a medley of Arab satellite sects. Threatening to sabotage the "agreement of shame" by all means necessary, the rejectionists instead became bogged down in organisational wrangles, with Hamas demanding, "as the largest opposition force," 40 per cent representation on all joint committees and the PLO factions calling for equal shares.

The matter was formally

resolved in the leftist factions' favour in January with the formation of the Palestinian Forces Alliance (PFA). No sooner had the PFA surmounted its representational quarrel, however, than it foundered on the utter incompatibility of its constituents' political aims.

While the main plan of the PFLP and DFLP was reform of the PLO, and particularly the removal of its "liquidationist" leadership, Hamas was more circumspect about the fate of the PLO and refused, for the time being at least, to work under its umbrella. Similarly, while the PLO opposition argued that the question of Palestine must be grounded on international law (specifically the implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of a two-state solution), Hamas held the view that the 1947 Partition Plan "was no more legitimate than the borders of Gaza and Jericho." If the Islamists have since toyed with the idea of a "ceasefire" with the Israeli occupation in exchange for its withdrawal to the 1967 Green Line, doctrinally Palestine remains for them "a holy trust afforded to Muslims by God" that "cannot be negotiated away."

Most independent observers regarded this attempt to build a nationalist-Islamist bloc as doomed from the outset, given the history of mutual loathing that has characterised relations between Palestinian nationalism's Marxist and Islamist wings. The prognosis has been borne out. By April, the Damascus-based PFLP leader, Abu Ali Mustafa complained that there was "no field coordination" between the PLO opposition and Hamas in the territories, while, in July, Gaza PFLP activist Ghazi Abu Jiyab stated bluntly that the "alliance between us and Hamas has proved a failure and is now over."

The damage, however, had largely been done. In the months immediately after Oslo, the PLO opposition, hamstringed by its coalition with the Islamists, mounted not a single independent mobilisation against the agreement, handing the baton either to Hamas or, ironically, to Fatah and Fida. It was they who, on the ground, initiated whatever mass actions there were in the West Bank and Gaza around the contested issue of prisoners, settlements and Jerusalem as a means of putting pressure on the PLO delegation.

Whenever the PLO opposition was stung into action, their response tended to be reactive. Thus in the wake of the Hebron massacre — perhaps the greatest opportunity for the opposition to at least reformulate the terms of Oslo



— the PFLP and DFLP united temporarily with Fatah activists to revive the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU). But the conditions of UNLU's previous success — the reality of the intifada — no longer obtained. What now dominated the political landscape was Oslo, and the PLO was still fractured on it. The reformed UNLU issued one statement condemning the massacre and then, predictably, disappeared.

Even more culpably, the PLO opposition had yet to formulate a coherent political programme outlining its positions vis-a-vis the fact of self-rule. Yet the urgency of doing so had been aired time and again from among its own cadres. For example, leftist journalist Walid Salim railed in April: "How do we relate to the autonomy? Should the democratic forces (i.e. the PLO opposition) declare themselves to be non-governmental organisations

during the autonomy period? What will be our relationship to the autonomy institutions? What is our position towards the Palestinian constitution and legal system? The questions are many but, except for specific positions here and there, there have been no clear, official and comprehensive responses."

When pressed to construct a positive political alternative to Oslo, the opposition's usual replay was that, in the words of leading PFLP and DFLP women activists Maha Nasar and Aida Issawi, "it is not our job to create a new alternative to guard the original agenda of the PLO, which the PLO relinquished in the agreement."

This may have been politically correct on the scale of orthodoxy; it was disastrous on the terrain of real politics. One year after Oslo, opinion polls in the territories registered the combined support for the PLO opposition at around

10 per cent.

Cautious retreat from rejectionism

In the run-up to self-rule — especially when confronted with the tangible presence of a Palestinian police force and the return of PLO officials — the opposition beat a cautious retreat from the absolute rejectionism expressed by figures like Nasar and Issawi. In its stead has been put a politics of ambivalence. In June, the PFLP's veteran leader, George Habash, issued his most conciliatory statement since Oslo, calling on the opposition "not to take a negative stance towards Palestinian institutions that offer services during the interim phase and to develop its... social and national performance in a way that serves its policies."

Inside the territories also, activists like Abu Jiyab have increasingly spoken of the opposition's current priorities being not just mobilising to confront the agreement, but equally to prevent Mr. Arafat from establishing "a dictatorial self-rule. Pursuance of this, he suggests, includes not merely participation in public bodies like municipalities, but perhaps also in elections to the PNA: "Our formal position is not to participate. But, personally, I feel that the opposition has to wait and see what kind of electoral system is proposed."

There have also been internal discussions as to the future relations between the opposition's cadres inside the territories and those in the diaspora, a debate that is bound to develop as PFLP and DFLP figures return to Palestine. Walid Salim, for instance, argues that it has been the preponderance of the Damascus leadership in decision-making that is at the root of the opposition's baneful performance since Oslo, as the outside "appropriates authority from institutions" inside and "disciplines them for a role of relaying its orders to the rank and file."

The bureaucratic conception of politics, says Abu Jiyab, also accounts for the PLO opposition's historic failure to capitalise on the achievements of the intifada when compared to the Islamists' relative success: "Hamas' growth in the uprising can be attributed to the fact that it has one, and only one, leadership inside — and therefore does not suffer from the results of having a variety of leadership groups, or of the existence of various centres which issue their directives from a distance, without being strongly and directly connected to what its going on here."

If the PLO opposition is to avoid the very real charge of irrelevance and

meet the challenges of the interim period, it will have to reform its organisational structure and adapt its short-term political aims. The first step, says PNC member Jamil Hilal, is for all the PLO groups to divest themselves of their heroic, but now outdated, guerrilla past: "Everything suggests that the time has come to move from the present system of faction to a system of political parties with all that entails, including making them accountable to the public, making known their political and social programmes, and instituting a system of democratic competition for positions of public responsibility and office."

Such a posture need not preclude military struggle or underground forms of organisation, but it would assert that the opposition's primary role for the interim period is the political one of laying the foundations of a democratic Palestinian civil society. For Palestinian academic George Giacaman, this is less a choice, than an obligation: "The opposition will be unable to stay alive except under a PNA that guarantees freedom of association and political activity, defends civil liberties, allows public decision-making and governs by rule of law instead of the random rule of an individual or party." In short, "the pillar of Palestinian civil society is going to be the presence of opposition parties."

The second step would be for the opposition to lend its political and organisational weight to those demanding reform of the PLO, particularly the independents grouped around Gaza's Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Palestine People's party and numerous Fatah dissidents. For this alliance to be meaningful, however, it would have to agree on an overhaul of the old quota system, whereby PLO factions gained automatic representation on bodies like the PNC, in favour of a democratic system based on direct elections from independent Palestinian national institutions, both inside the territories and without. In other words, it would mean the opposition forswearing the very mechanism that has ensured its presence on PLO bodies for the last 25 years.

For one leading PFLP activists who spoke on condition of anonymity it is a gamble worth taking. He summarised the opposition's current dilemma as one in which its politics is still suspended somewhere between nostalgia and fact. If the opposition is to have a future, however, it is the latter that must prevail: "Unless we redefine our politics on the new terrain of self-rule, we will, ten years down the road, end up like Ahmad Jibril (the PFLP-General Command leader whose base is strong in the territories). That is to say, we will be pure in our beliefs, but utterly insignificant in our influence."

Middle East International.



M. KAHIL

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Israel arrests Hamas members

(Continued from page 1)

West Bank and neighbouring Arab countries who qualify for the "hit list," the Observer said quoting a security source.

In contrast to the cabinet's hardline stand, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said earlier Sunday that he accepted in principle negotiations with Hamas.

"I believe we have passed the stage where we would refuse on principle to talk with such an organisation," Beilin told army radio.

His comments came after a Hamas official in Nablus on the West Bank, Sheikh Jamal Salim, said he was in favour of a ceasefire between Israel and the group's armed wing, Izzeddin Al Qassam.

In Cairo, Israel would tell Palestinians it expects them to crush groups such as Hamas, which are trying to destroy the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

Speaking ahead of a negotiating forum with the Palestinians, Mr. Peres told reporters:

"We expect that the Palestinians like ourselves to stop the ones who want to kill the agreement between us from executing their will, and together we shall work for peace, for economic prosperity and for tranquillity to all people — fighting terrorism and fighting violence."

The PLO says a crackdown on Hamas will trigger civil



Israeli soldiers interrogate a Palestinian youth following the stabbing of a soldier in the curfew town of Hebron on the West Bank (AFP photo)

strife and Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Zohdi Al Kudra, told Reuters it would not answer Israeli demands to hit Hamas.

"They can suggest what they want but we respond the way we want. No one dictates to us what we should do. The (Palestinian) authority does not receive instructions from Israel or anybody," he said.

The meeting with Palestinian officials is to tackle a set of issues, including how to deal with Hamas.

Israel confirmed on Sunday that a self-avowed "living martyr" from Hamas carried out the bus suicide bombing, bringing the final death toll to

23. In a Hamas videotape issued after the attack, Salah Abdul Rahim Al Souwi, 27, of the occupied West Bank, said farewell to his family and friends, the normal practice of Hamas guerrillas about to embark on suicide missions.

"We have definitely identified the remains" of the man who was involved in the bus attack, said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen, citing the results of blood tests and skin-cell tests from Souwi's relatives.

He said Souwi killed himself, 20 Israelis, a Dutch national and one person from Sierra Leone.

mic deputy Ahmad Baqer told AFP.

"Most of the parliament's 60 members, if not all of them, refuse totally to open any dialogue with Iraqi officials who are well-known for deceiving others."

Speaker Saleh said Saturday he was "ready to undertake a dialogue with all the Kuwaiti parties, especially the parliament, to reach solutions guaranteeing the rights of each party."

Iraq has "no choice but to conform to (U.N.) Resolution 833" calling for Baghdad to recognise Kuwait, giving up its historical claim to the emirate, Mr. Saleh added.

But Mr. Baqer said: "If Iraq wants to conform to Resolution 833, including recognising the borders, they have to know that the United Nations is their only way and not us."

Naser Al Sanaa, another deputy, told AFP that Kuwaitis did not trust Iraqi officials who "talk with no action."

Iraq on Sunday denounced U.S. President Bill Clinton's scheduled Middle East tour as one aimed at keeping American troops permanently in the Gulf.

"Clinton is bringing a plan guaranteeing a permanent presence for his troops," Iraq's ruling Baath Party daily, Al Thawra, said in the official media's first comment on this week's tour.

It also denounced the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which Mr. Clinton is to visit, and accused Washington of trying to seize the oil wealth of both these countries.

Al Thawra said the United States seeks to "milk" Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to make them dependent on it.

Mr. Clinton is to attend the historic signing Wednesday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. His stops include Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria.

end with the sides saying they had very good talks despite the differences — or some such diplomatic formula," Mr. Beilin said.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks launched three years ago this month are stuck with Syria demanding a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel refuses to announce the extent of a pullback until Syria commits to full normal relations.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Israel and Syria may sign a peace accord before the end of the year.

"I am optimistic and things are moving forward, and I hope an accord between Israel and Syria will come before the end of the year," Mr. Mubarak told Israeli reporters.

He said Syrian President Assad, whom he met last week, was "sincere in his desire for peace" with Israel.

Shorter work weeks can give a boost to the economy

By Marwan Atalla

IT IS time for the Jordanian public to consider an alternative to the current six day, one-shift, work schedule. Jordan is and will continue to be an important part of the future of this area, and it will play a fundamental role in connecting this region with the rest of the world. Therefore, it is time to look at ways to improve efficiency, while giving the people and organisations maximum flexibility.

Several studies and surveys have been conducted regarding this subject, and several recommendations have been made, none of which offers a satisfactory answer to all concerned. An experimental project was also done in 1990/91, in which Thursdays and Fridays were taken as the weekend, and the working hours were extended. The experiment was not successful due to several factors, the two most important of which are: (1) Insufficient time was given for people to adjust, (2) It increased the gap between the country and the West due to Thursday being a weekend day.

It is difficult to find a system that suits everyone. As a private company, we conducted our own research regarding working hours, and the staff were split three ways when voting on most issues. However, when taking a long-term view, there must always be short-term sacrifices.

The system that I am proposing is for all sectors, private and public. It is by no means a perfect system, but it is flexible enough to accommodate most people. The system is based on flex-time, and is designed

to give the employer the necessary number of working hours to run an organisation efficiently, while providing the employee with sufficient flexibility to suit his or her lifestyle, transportation and other needs.

The system is based on a five day, 40-hour work week, which is an internationally accepted standard. The five working days would be Sunday through Thursday, with Fridays and Saturdays as official holidays. Known world-wide as the weekend, Friday is chosen for religious reasons, and Saturday in order to allow as maximum overlap with the weekend in the West and other countries. Taking Thursday instead of Saturday, as some companies are currently doing, does not serve the purpose and only widens the time gap between us and other countries, especially the Western countries.

The eight working hours per day would be divided into two four hour periods, with a mandatory break in between, which should be 30 minutes as a minimum, and 1.5 hours as a maximum.

Depending on the company and the employee, the first shift could start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., with a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. An employee could choose to take a 30-minute lunch break and end his day at 4:50 p.m.

Other possible scenarios could of course be considered. Even within companies, management could allow different employees to have different schedules, depending on the needs of the company and the needs of

the employees. The system described above is currently being used in the U.S., Europe, and most of the Far East, and it has proven to be extremely efficient. Among its advantages are:

Health benefits:

The mandatory break will allow employees to take a break from work, and perhaps have a small meal. This is absolutely necessary for proper metabolism, and reduces the risk of heartburn and ulcers. It also helps people eat less by allowing less time between meals.

Some people may choose to exercise or take a walk during the break, and perhaps follow the work-out with a light meal, which is the healthiest of all alternatives.

Stress is greatly reduced when work stretches are reduced, and breaks are taken, hence decreasing the chances of heart problems.

Concentration and efficiency are increased. This will make employees less irritable and hopefully cut down on smoking.

No after lunch siesta. Sleeping immediately after a meal should always be avoided. It is a major cause of heartburn, ulcers and hernias.

Everyone complains about late dinners. When lunch is reduced to a reasonable meal instead of a heavy one, and the afternoon siesta is avoided, people tend to sleep earlier, and rise earlier, which is a healthy habit.

Environmental and traffic benefits:

Because of the flex time hours, people will be going

to work at different hours, and traffic congestions will be reduced. This will decrease gas consumption and avoid unnecessary emission of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere.

Less traffic congestion usually means less angry and irritable drivers, and hopefully less accidents.

Economic benefits:

For the above reasons, health costs will be reduced tremendously. Although it is difficult to measure this in monetary terms, it will undoubtedly be substantial. The restaurant and food business will benefit. During the break, employees will either order meals to their work place, or go to a nearby restaurant. In addition, business lunches will become more common.

Productivity will increase for the reasons mentioned above.

Sports clubs and exercise facilities will have an increase in membership.

The transportation sector will benefit as people will be using it more frequently.

The added afternoon hours will allow us to have more overlap with the working hours in Europe and the U.S., which will also increase productivity.

The local tourism, hotel and other businesses would flourish. People will have a two-day weekend, and will be able to take longer trips and visit more sites in Jordan. Many people would visit Aqaba, Petra, Jerash and other places if they had longer weekends.

The retail business will flourish because people will have Saturdays to go shopping on.

Cooperation between private and public sectors will improve due to more

overlap in working hours.

There will be an increase in overall productivity due to having to spend less time in traffic jams.

There will be a reduction in insurance costs as a result of the decrease in traffic accidents.

Personal/Social benefits:

More time with the family. A two-day weekend will allow families to spend more time together. Everyone could use a little more time with the family.

Get to know Jordan better.

Women will spend less time in the kitchen. Since most people will have lunch near the office rather than go home, women will no longer have to prepare an elaborate lunch. For women who work, this is yet another benefit.

People with hobbies, whether for pleasure or extra income, can spend more time enjoying them.

I believe the recent political developments we are seeing are the start of something unprecedented in Jordan. Our region is going to experience an economic boom which will benefit everyone. Our people have always been innovative and entrepreneurial. We turn the hardest of times into challenges and opportunities. If we seize the moment and take steps towards achieving ambitious goals, we will succeed. If we take the right steps to improve relations between private and public sectors, and encourage the private sector, we will help our country and everyone in it.

The writer is a Jordanian businessman. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

U.S. warns against Iraqi move

(Continued from page 1)

holding Iraq's right to move troops anywhere in the country, declined to answer reporters when they asked on Saturday whether Baghdad would send the Republican Guards south again in defiance of U.S. and British warnings.

Foreign Minister Mohammad-Saeed Al-Sahaf, in remarks published on Sunday, played down the U.S. and British warnings, saying they were meant only to influence U.N. Security Council members.

Mr. Sahaf also accused the United States and Britain of dominating the U.N. Security Council and interpreting resolutions to fit their needs.

"How do these governments allow themselves to explain a resolution issued by the Security Council as they like," Mr. Sahaf told the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

"This is another attempt by those governments to dominate the Security Council and impose their unjust will on it," Mr. Sahaf said of the U.S. and British warnings.

Mr. Sahaf said "the stance of these two dominating governments differs from the essence of the stances of majority countries of the council."

"We will inform members of the council of these two unilateral steps from the side of America and Britain, and will confirm the necessity of legal, just and balanced explanation of Security Council resolutions," Mr. Sahaf said.

He also avoided referring to whether Iraq would defy the warnings, adding that while Baghdad rejected the U.S. interpretation of the resolution, Russia and France, both permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, did not share the American stand.

Newspapers said Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, just back from New York where he lobbied for an easing of U.N. trade sanctions, briefed President Saddam Hussein and senior members of the ruling Baath Party on his deliberations at the United Nations.

The newspapers gave no details, and Baghdad-based diplomats took the silence as indicating that the government was back on the diplomatic track.

"Iraq will help Russia's efforts to show the U.S. that it still is a power to reckon with in the Middle East," another diplomat said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, in a surprise trip to Iraq this month, sought to defuse the standoff in the Gulf after persuading Baghdad to declare for the first time its readiness to recognise Kuwait within U.N.-demarcated borders.

In return, Moscow pledged to support Iraq's efforts to have the sanctions eased or lifted.

"Among all permanent members (of the U.N. Security Council) Russia is now seriously trying to do something," the diplomat said.

It is unlikely that Baghdad will take any action, military or otherwise, to jeopardise Russia's diplomacy, the diplomat said, adding that he expected a diplomatic initiative from Iraq in the near future to bolster Moscow's standing at the Security Council.

Kuwaiti deputies meanwhile rejected an offer made by Iraq's parliamentary speaker to visit Kuwait for negotiations aimed at reconciling the two countries.

"We will never accept to sit down with anybody representing such a regime," Islamic

mic deputy Ahmad Baqer told AFP.

"Most of the parliament's 60 members, if not all of them, refuse totally to open any dialogue with Iraqi officials who are well-known for deceiving others."

Speaker Saleh said Saturday he was "ready to undertake a dialogue with all the Kuwaiti parties, especially the parliament, to reach solutions guaranteeing the rights of each party."

Iraq has "no choice but to conform to (U.N.) Resolution 833" calling for Baghdad to recognise Kuwait, giving up its historical claim to the emirate, Mr. Saleh added.

But Mr. Baqer said: "If Iraq wants to conform to Resolution 833, including recognising the borders, they have to know that the United Nations is their only way and not us."

Naser Al Sanaa, another deputy, told AFP that Kuwaitis did not trust Iraqi officials who "talk with no action."

Iraq on Sunday denounced U.S. President Bill Clinton's scheduled Middle East tour as one aimed at keeping American troops permanently in the Gulf.

"Clinton is bringing a plan guaranteeing a permanent presence for his troops," Iraq's ruling Baath Party daily, Al Thawra, said in the official media's first comment on this week's tour.

It also denounced the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which Mr. Clinton is to visit, and accused Washington of trying to seize the oil wealth of both these countries.

Al Thawra said the United States seeks to "milk" Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to make them dependent on it.

Mr. Clinton is to attend the historic signing Wednesday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. His stops include Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria.

end with the sides saying they had very good talks despite the differences — or some such diplomatic formula," Mr. Beilin said.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks launched three years ago this month are stuck with Syria demanding a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel refuses to announce the extent of a pullback until Syria commits to full normal relations.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Israel and Syria may sign a peace accord before the end of the year.

"I am optimistic and things are moving forward, and I hope an accord between Israel and Syria will come before the end of the year," Mr. Mubarak told Israeli reporters.

He said Syrian President Assad, whom he met last week, was "sincere in his desire for peace" with Israel.

FOLLOWING IS the text of a speech given by General Boutros Ghali on the occasion of the World Food Day last week.

I AM pleased to resume the annual tradition of celebrating World Food Day, on the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

This year marks the 49th anniversary of the FAO, making it just one week older than the United Nations itself. I look forward to next year, when together we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of both of our organisations.

With today's advances in agricultural science and technology, the world can produce enough food to feed its five and a half billion people. This is a remarkable achievement.

But more is required. Millions of people across the world do not have ready access to food. More than 1,200 million people — mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia — live in abject poverty. About 800 million or two thirds of these people are undernourished. The problems of hunger and malnutrition remain unsolved, and are of increasing global concern.

Food security means the ensured ability of a country to meet the food requirements of its people, either through domestic production or import capacity. Never has it been more clear that food security will require ever-widening cooperative effort.

Food security is closely linked to the other great concerns of our day. Children's rights, the environment, human rights, natural disasters, population, social development, women's rights and human settlements — each has or will be the special focus of a global conference convened by the United Nations. Together, they involve the various dimensions of our greatest global challenge — the challenge of development.

The theme of this year's World Food Day, "Water for Life", highlights the links between food security and sustainable development.

Water is vital to sustain and support life. Most water supplies are used for agriculture and food production. World water resources can probably meet the needs of the world population. But unequal distribution of rainfall, pollution and land degradation, have all resulted in unequal distribution of freshwater supplies. This has led to water scarcity in many, predominantly poor countries.

Water conservation and water-use efficiency are thus directly linked to the

'Food for all'

broader concerns of Agenda 21 — adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 specifically calls for action in the management and protection of freshwater resources.

Coordination within the U.N. system and support for grass roots efforts must be strengthened in this area.

In addition to Agenda 21, today's multiple programmes of activity dealing with water resources stem from: The Mar del Plata Action Plan of the 1977 United Nations Water Conference; and the Statement of the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment, held in Dublin. Among others involved are:

— The FAO

— The International Fund for Agricultural Development

— The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

— The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

— The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

— The World Bank

— The World Food Programme (WFP)

— The World Health

Organisation (WHO)

— and the Regional Economic Commissions.

Just last month, the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the U.N. Administrative Committee on Coordination met with these many actors. Together, they considered measures to promote coordination among their various programmes. In this regard, I am particularly encouraged by the joint effort of FAO and UNDP to establish a Sustainable Food Security Task Force.

The work of the task force will include efforts to improve water management at a local level.

I am also encouraged by recent efforts to focus on the special concerns of Africa in this area.

As a complement to its Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, located in Accra, the Council of the United Nations University is setting up an International Network on Water, Environment and Health in Ontario, Canada. And, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with a particular emphasis on Africa, will soon be opened for signature in Paris.

The General Assembly has declared March 22 World Water Day. And the General Assembly has declared today the International Day and 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty — a goal which dovetails with food security. We must take these opportunities, along with the upcoming global conferences, to integrate food security and water resource concerns into all other development activities.

The World Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen next March, should yield multilateral commitments to fight poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. These commitments can reinforce and advance efforts for food and water security.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in late 1995, should produce measures for advancing the role of women in sustainable development, particularly in rural areas where water concerns are often greatest.

And, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in 1996, should bring multilateral agreements on water resource issues in urban areas.

On this World Food Day, as we contemplate the special role of water, in achieving "food for all", I call upon the international community to make the management and protection of water resources an integral part of our efforts to achieve sustainable development and enduring human progress.

Israel pins hopes on Clinton trip

(Continued from page 1)

the brave" to which Syria aspires "requires a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon and the elimination of occupation."

"It is very important for the Arab countries, participants in the peace process, to feel that peace has ended injustice and occupation, and brought to them security, tranquillity and justice," the newspaper noted.

"The just and comprehensive peace is the sole guarantee for security in the region," Tishrin added.

Mr. Clinton will meet President Assad in Damascus and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Israel on Thursday during a Middle East tour centred on the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Israel's cabinet on Sunday endorsed the treaty, initiated in Jordan last week, while work crews from Israel and Jordan put up their second border crossing in three

months — this one a bridge over the River Jordan.

An outspokenly dovish politician, Mr. Beilin said Israel hoped Mr. Clinton would win a promise from Mr. Assad to enter high-level talks with Israel. This would "truly accelerate the process," he told Israeli army radio.

He said Israel also demanded that Syria take action against groups in Damascus which openly declare they intend to carry out "terrorist actions" against Israel.

Mr. Beilin said he believed Washington and Damascus were locked in intensive contacts to ensure they reached an understanding on what would emerge from the Clinton-Assad summit meeting.

"Against the background that Syria is one of the seven countries defined as terrorist states by the Americans, this visit cannot be only a courteous tourist visit that will

with such developments.

The opposition accuses the government of preventing anti-negotiations rallies after the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25. The Islamists strongly attacked the government for that, saying it was blocking their views from reaching the people.

The Islamists' "battle" against the peace treaty in Parliament received a major blow Saturday when the IAF failed to win any leadership position in speakership elections.

The candidate behind whom they put their weight for the speakership of the

IAF to boycott possible speech

(Continued from page 1)

with the Jewish state. But opposition to the treaty will only be expressed in democratic, constitutional and lawful manners, IAF leaders stressed.

They said they would fight the peace treaty in Parliament, at the party and popular levels. IAF members have reportedly been attacking the treaty during the religious sermons at mosques.

Mr. Mansour said the IAF will also be organising rallies to express their rejection of peace with Israel, stressing that rallies are a legal means of expressing points of view in Jordan.

Mr. Mansour was forceful in stressing Islamists will not tolerate additional alleged encroachment by the government on their democratic rights, saying the bloc "leaves all its options open" to deal

Jordan stands for sovereign rights

(Continued from page 1)

in the occupied territories from Jordanian Awqaf to Palestinian Awqaf was a

natural transitional measure since the territories are covered under the self-rule agreement.

GIA claims killings

(Continued from page 12)

terminated and executed by a group of extremists.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in violence triggered by the cancellation of January 1992 parliamentary elections that the Islamic Salvation Front was winning.

The announcement came as some 50 journalists met Saturday to discuss their precarious situation in the face of attacks. A 20th journalist was killed last week in an attack blamed on Islamic extremists. Eight newspapers on Saturday ended a 72-hour strike to protest the killings of their colleagues.

"What do we do not to die?" asked one reporter at the meeting, held in the guarded press house in the centre of Algiers.

Many journalists and intellectuals — favourite targets of extremist attacks — have fled their homeland, going mainly to France to protect themselves. Most foreigners, also prime targets, have left Algeria.

About 500 people gathered in Marseille Saturday to show solidarity and demand a "halt to the killers."

Algerian security forces recently appeared to have added new muscle to their search for armed groups. The new fervor coincides with efforts by Algeria's military-backed government to negotiate with fundamentalist leaders.

Talks are currently at a standstill with the Islamic Salvation Front demanding more concessions before undertaking negotiations. They see the possibility to meet with all their comrades, including those in exile, in jail or involved in the armed conflict.

Kuwait might raise customs fees

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, struggling to curb a Gulf war-inflated budget deficit, may impose new fees that could double customs revenue, officials say.

A panel of state officials is preparing six alternative plans to increase customs charges on most of the emirate's imports. Ibrahim Al Ghanim, director-general of customs, told Reuters.

"I prefer the plan that achieves a (customs income) rise of 80 or 100 per cent," said Sheikh Ghanim, a member of the committee formed by Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan.

The results of the study will be given to the cabinet during the current fiscal year ending on June 30, 1995, and it will decide which system it wants to adopt, Sheikh Ghanim said.

Officials such as Sheikh Ghanim see plenty of scope for increasing customs revenues, which normally accounts for less than five per cent of total state revenue. Kuwaiti customs fees are among the lowest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, comprising Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, Sheikh Ghanim said.

In 1984-89 imports were worth on average 1.7 billion dinars (\$5.7 billion) annually. Average customs income was just 60 million dinars (\$200 million) annually in that period.

Sheikh Rodhan, after meetings with parliamentarians in June, said he wanted to increase state revenue by about 100 million dinars (\$340 million) in 1994-95. His plans envisaged most of the new revenue coming from increases in customs charges.

Revenue from customs levies in calendar 1993 amounted to about 70 million dinars (\$235 million). The emirate projects a 1,502 billion dinars (\$5.0 billion) budget deficit in 1994-95, equivalent to a quarter of gross domestic product.

Sheikh Ghanim ruled out radical customs hikes. "We are a trading country, there is no space for such increase," he said. "We also abide by Gulf Cooperation Council agreements that keep customs of member countries at a maximum of 20 per cent on normal goods."

U.S. banker urges Arab countries to provide more economic information

KUWAIT (R) — Arab Gulf states should make economic information more widely available to attract back some of the billions of dollars invested overseas by the private sector, a U.S. banker said Sunday.

The suggestion was one of several made by Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International Ltd., about how Gulf states might repatriate funds placed outside the region.

"Sometimes it's very hard to get information from this region," he told a conference on Gulf banking. "A flow of

economic information to investors (is important)."

He was speaking in answer to a question from the floor after delivering a paper on global capital flows at the conference hosted by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council and National Bank of Kuwait, a commercial bank.

The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corp says between 1950 and 1992 total Arab private investment outside the Arab World was about \$650 billion compared to \$11.9 billion in the Arab

World. Mr. Hormats advocated the development of international accounting standards which he said were not universal in the region.

Also, the region should increase the efficiency and liquidity of local capital markets and widen the range of the assets that could be bought.

He said privatisation formed part of this process but "I do not believe in privatisation for its own sake." Privatisation without making the necessary regulatory

changes had no meaning.

He said that, for example, a 1993 World Bank report on privatisation in Kuwait outlined considerable scope for sell-offs. But he commented that the process could not be rushed.

"The real test of privatisation is not the speed with which it is conducted but the care a quality that goes into its preparation."

Mr. Hormats said that even if only 10 or 15 per cent of overseas investments were attracted back into the Gulf it would give a significant boost to the region's economy.

Russia promises low inflation in tough 1995 budget plan

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has pledged a crackdown on inflation in its 1995 budget plans, but a deal approved in outline form last week is still far from reality.

Economists, wary of a government promise of one per cent monthly inflation next year, said big risks remained.

Parliament could throw a spanner in the stabilisation works, spending and revenue targets may be hard to meet, and new loans to close a budget gap are not yet on the table.

"There are three big questions about the budget," said a senior Western economist. "Can the government get it through parliament, can they do what they are promising to do, and, even if they do, will it actually work?"

International financial institutions and the Group of Seven industrial states have been urging Russia to make a comprehensive drive to complete economic reforms, stabilise the rouble and bring inflation down.

On paper at least, the 1995 budget is Russia's answer. It envisages a deficit amounting to 8.3 per cent of gross domestic product and promises to fund this by

"non-inflationary means" — bigger issues of government securities and the effective use of \$6 billion of expected international aid.

Central bank credits, the current inflationary way to close a budget gap, are out.

"It is possible 1995 will become the year of stabilisation and in the following year we will be able to manage without any Western credits," Izvestia newspaper Saturday quoted Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin as saying.

It is the first time since economic reforms began that Russia has presented a budget before the start of the year.

The final version of the 1995 budget was only approved in December of that year, while parliament took until this summer to approve 1994 spending plans.

Mr. Shokhin described the budget as "a new ideology." Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking before the government gave the plans a provisional seal of approval, said it represented a new concept and a tougher line on reform.

Russia, which launched economic reforms in January

1992, has brought monthly inflation down to single figures this year after big double-digit rises for much of 1992 and 1993.

But September prices rose 7.7 per cent due to big loans to farms and remote northern regions, up from August's 4.5 per cent. Prices rose six per cent between Oct. 11 and 15 after the rouble crashed to an all-time low of 3,926 to the dollar.

The currency has since rebounded to around 3,020 per dollar.

The finance ministry said in a statement Friday that a new deal on economic policy in 1995 could lead to a stand-by loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a stabilisation fund for the rouble.

The statement, issued after talks with IMF officials, said: "The question was discussed of granting Russia a stabilisation fund and reserve credits immediately after reaching agreement on a government and central bank programme of action for 1995."

But opponents to fast-track Russian reform fear that painful moves to curb inflation will drive companies to the wall.

Iran loses 1/3 of its agricultural production each year

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran loses around 30 per cent of its agricultural production each year because of problems with storage, transportation and distribution, a newspaper has reported.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Hassan Tabatabaie said at an agriculture seminar that the lost food could feed 15 million people and he called for urgent action to solve the problem. The English-language daily Iran News said.

"We have the potential to be self-sufficient in food production and can even export food," it quoted Mr. Tabatabaie as saying.

Iran increased its agricultural production by 30 per cent after the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, but the country still needs to import several items, such as grain, to feed its population of 60 million.

Some 3.5 million tonnes wheat are expected to be imported in 1994, despite a projected domestic production of 11.5 million tonnes. Iran produced over 17 million tonnes of grain in 1993, including 10.8 million tonnes of wheat.

However, the authorities have vowed to increase wheat production 14 million tonnes within five years, although meeting the goal will require greater investment at a time when Iran is mired in a financial crisis.

The authorities also have to deal with the problem of waste by consumers.

Iranians throw away \$300 million worth of bad bread each year. The government subsidises 75 per cent of the price of bread, to the tune of more than a billion dollars a year, according to official figures.

APEC ministers agree to deepen small-dialogue business policy

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — Ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum agreed Sunday to deepen their newly-launched policy dialogue on small-business development in tandem with the private sector.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told a news conference that ministers from the 17 countries had agreed to meet again next year in Australia after their inaugural meeting in Osaka.

A joint statement released at the end of the two-day ministerial meeting, which also included various business leaders from APEC countries, said small and medium enterprises were "increasingly important" for the region.

The ministers called for in-depth studies on regional interdependence, more open trade and deregulation for small businesses and suggestions on how they could adjust to such an environment.

In addition, they recommended that an existing group of experts on small and

medium-sized enterprises be upgraded into an "ad-hoc policy-level group" reporting to senior officials of the five-year-old forum.

The statement said that smaller enterprises were "well-positioned for business expansion" and that sustained economic growth and new employment opportunities depended to a "great extent" on their activities.

"Addressing problems in the areas of human resources development, access to information technology and technology sharing, the availability of financing and market access should be priorities of all APEC member economies," the statement said.

But it also noted that policies adopted by each APEC member to deal with such priorities "will necessarily differ depending on the economy's stage of development and other special circumstances."

Masafumi Onishi, the head of Osaka Gas Co. Ltd. who chaired the private-sector forum, said in a report,

attached to the statement that "more substantial management resources" should be devoted to these areas. He also called for the expansion of establishment of related information networks.

"It is equally essential that APEC member economies create more business-friendly environments," he said, calling for further deregulation and measures to liberalise trade and investment.

Mr. Onishi said the APEC private-sector participants also sought harmonised standards and mutual recognition, simplified customs procedures, transparent administration and improved market access.

Australia's Small Business, Customs and Construction Minister Chris Schacht told the joint news conference at the end of the two-day meeting that he wanted to promote greater private-sector participation next year.

"We cannot be effective ministers for small and medium enterprises if we don't have the input from (small and medium enterprises) themselves," he said.

Taiwan cuts tariffs

TAIPEI (AFP) — The Taiwanese parliament has approved an average 2.81 per cent reduction in tariffs on 758 imports as part of a bid to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), parliament officials said. The finance committee of the parliament passed without objection the reduction proposal, which will lower the current nominal rate of 8.89 per cent to 8.64 per cent, the officials said.

Mauritius lectures Africa on economic growth

GRAND BAY, Mauritius (R) — Leaders of Mauritius, which has enjoyed sustained economic growth in the past decade, have advised other African countries to follow their model if they want to achieve genuine growth.

"Universal development models do not exist, but I am confident that the Mauritian model can be adapted to the specificities of member states," Mauritian Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth told delegates from the 22-member Preferential Trade Area of eastern and southern Africa (PTA).

"Mauritius has made much headway in the past decade in the area of social and economic development and has acquired wide experience in im-

plementing several strategies, including structural adjustment, and establishment of new areas of production, such as export processing zones," Sir Jagmuth said.

His statement came as the one-week PTA meeting ended in the early hours of Sunday.

Mauritius central bank governor Indur Ramphul warned delegates that, despite optimism that the world economy was recovering, prospects for most African states were limited.

"Economic progress has been extremely uneven. The growth performance of low income countries in our region is weak, their external viability is undermined by

high debt burdens, and they face rampant unemployment and deteriorating living standards," he said.

In a paper presented at the conference, Sir Ramphul said that in spite of reform efforts, poverty among Africans was expected to worsen. "Reversing this trend will be one of the most challenging tasks in the years ahead."

Sir Ramphul added that sound macroeconomic policies, though necessary, would not alone ensure sustainable growth on the African continent.

"This is evidenced by the fact that after 10 years of structural adjustment policies pursued in sub-Saharan Africa, unemployment has in-

creased fourfold and real wages declined by one-third," he said.

Sir Ramphul said world income was forecast to rise to \$500 billion with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks in April.

But it was unlikely that African countries, exporting commodities and importing foodstuffs, would derive tangible benefits from the accord in the medium term.

PTA members are Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



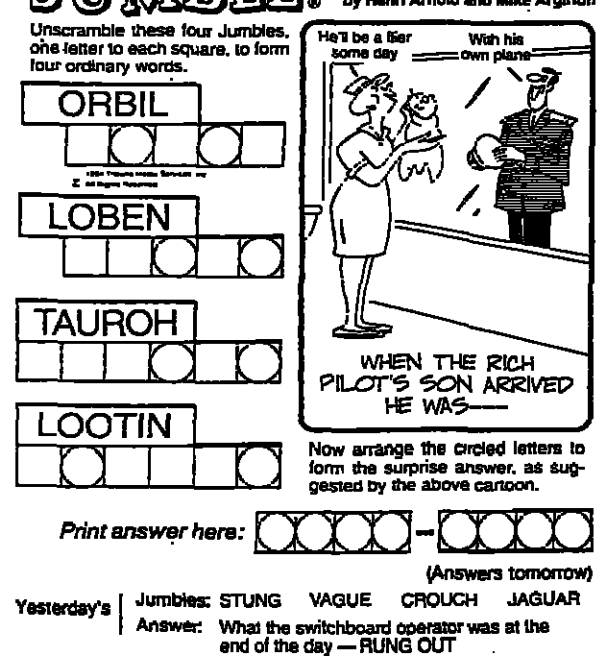
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Parma capture the lead in Italy

ROME (AFP) — Parma took a temporary lead in the Italian League championship Sunday following a 2-1 win over bottom club Reggiana.

Marco converted from the spot after the headed opener by Italian international Dino Baggio.

Baggio's namesake, Roberto, FIFA's 1993 Player of the Year, confirmed his return to form after injury with the second goal in Juventus' 2-1 victory at Cremonese.

The 22-times Italian champions moved up to fourth thanks to Gianluca Vialli in the 39th minute and Baggio four minutes later.

AS Roma were to host Cagliari in Sunday's late match and a win for Roma would put them above Parma.

Lazio moved up to second spot after last year's top scorer, Giuseppe Signori, hit an 88th minute goal in a 2-1 win at Genoa.

AC Milan, who now have just one point from three European Champions

League matches, could only manage a goalless draw with Sampdoria at the San Siro stadium. With just one win in their last four matches, Fabio Capello's once feared team, are struggling.

Milan lost at lowly Padova last week and also had French international Marcel Desailly sent off. That result capped a disastrous week for the European champions who were beaten by derby rivals Inter in the first-leg of the Italian Cup days earlier.

They then had two points deducted by UEFA from their European Champions League tally for an incident in their recent home clash with Austrian side Casino Salzburg in which the visiting goalkeeper Otto Konrad was hit by a bottle.

Florentina shot up from ninth to fifth spot with the attacking performance of the day as thrashed visitors Padova 4-1. Italy's top scorer Gabriel Batistuta from Argentina hit the fourth goal to keep him ahead with eight strikes.



Paris Saint Germain's striker Rai (right) attempts to avoid the tackle from Nice's defenders Frédéric Gloria as part of France's First Division soccer match held in Nice, southern France Saturday (AFP photo)

Paris St Germain revive title hopes with 4-0 win

PARIS (R) — French champions Paris St Germain, inspired by Brazil's World Cup player Rai, revived their title hopes late Saturday with a crushing 4-0 win away to Nice.

Rai, sidelined for most of the early season in the wake of Brazil's world title, rediscovered his attacking flair with two goals and brought the Parisians back into title contention.

Sixth before the kick-off, PSG rose to fourth in the table, six points behind unbeaten leaders Nantes who had to settle for a lacklustre goalless draw at Sochaux.

With Nantes' nearest rivals Lyon sinking 4-0 at Lens, Paris St Germain made the most of a night of prolific scoring in the French League — 26 goals — to confirm on the domestic front their immaculate showing in the European Champions' League.

"You are going to be surprised because we will make it back to the top of the league. And we'll be hot contenders for the title," coach Luis Fernandez said.

Fernandez denied his team were mainly focused on the European Champions League, in which they are only team to have won all their three group games.

He said he had never lost faith in Rai: "He was professional enough to wait, to work hard, and tonight I'm very happy to see what he had to offer."

The Brazilian opened the scoring with a fine header in the 20th minute, supplied the decisive pass to Liberia's George Weah for the second goal and made it 3-0 from the left in the 68th minute. Pascal Nouma sealed victory two minutes later.

"We sometimes had the impression that there were

two PSGs — one playing in the league, the other in the European Cup. I hope it's not the case anymore," club president Michel Densoir said.

Densoir had double reasons to celebrate as Chateauroux, the club he used to run before taking over PSG, scored a rare 4-0 away victory over former European champions Marseille in a major second division upset.

Nantes, unbeaten for the 14th consecutive match, were not their attacking selves at Sochaux and coach Jean-Claude Suaneau was clearly disappointed.

"You can be disappointed only when you coach a team like this one and they don't score," he said.

It was still a profitable night for the leaders as second-placed Lyon slumped at Lens and now trail Nantes by four points.

Göteborg clinch Swedish league title

STOCKHOLM (R) — Göteborg clinched the Swedish League title Sunday with a goal 15 minutes from time on the final day of the season for a stirring 2-1 away victory at championship rivals Malmö.

The defending champions, who needed a win to claim their 15th league title, looked like missing out until Mikael Martinsson struck the decisive goal in the 75th minute.

Orebro, who began the day level with Malmö and a point behind Göteborg, won 3-0

at Landskrona to finish runners-up.

Göteborg took the lead in the 21st minute through Stefan Lindqvist, but Malmö, playing in front of 25,500 partisan fans, equalised just three minutes later with a goal from Jorgen Pettersson.

Göteborg are currently second in Group A of the European Champions' League, level on points with Manchester United after victories over Barcelona and Galatasaray.

U.S., Japan, Cuba, China, Brazil win again in volleyball

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — The United States, Japan, Brazil, South Korea, China, Cuba, Azerbaijan and Ukraine all won Saturday at the women's World Volleyball Championship.

The United States scored their second sweeping victory in as many days, trouncing the Czech Republic 15-2, 15-1 and 15-1 in a match played in Sao Paulo.

Japan and Cuba also picked up their second consecutive wins in the championship's preliminary round, which is also being

held in the city of Belo Horizonte, about 360 miles (560 kilometres) northeast of Sao Paulo.

Japan easily beat Kenya 15-1, 15-3 and 15-4, while Cuba downed the Netherlands 15-4, 15-9 and 15-10.

Azerbaijan won its first game, beating Peru 15-12, 15-13 and 15-6.

In Belo Horizonte, South Korea won their early afternoon game against Romania 15-2, 15-3 and 15-7.

Brazil picked up its second victory downing Germany 15-5, 15-7 and 15-5 in a 50-minute game.

No expense spared, but no big names expected at Student Games

FUKUOKA, Japan (AFP) — Fukuoka is waiting for a wind of change to save its multi-million dollar investment in next year's World Student Games and even the future of the event itself.

The 1,000-year-old Japanese port was saved by storms, that were christened divine winds, when they twice blew away flotillas of Genghis Khan's invaders in the 13th century.

Now, the city fathers want the winds to divert the world's top young sportsmen and women away from a cluster of rival sports championships.

"We are not sure if big names will come," said Hidetoshi Machida, executive director of the Fukuoka University organising committee. "But we will do our best to bring them in."

The demise of amateurism in big-time sports has left the Universiade in desperate need of sponsors' money, media attention and world-beating competitors.

Fukuoka has learned much from organisational gaffes — missed bus connections, slow computer data services and Japanese-only interpreters — at this month's Asian Games in Hiroshima.

But it can do little to change the overloaded 1995 sporting calendar starting with the Pan-American Games in March.

Then comes the August 5-13 world athletic championships in Göteborg and the Pan-Pacific swimming championships in the 1996 U.S. Olympic city of Atlanta sometime in mid-August before Fukuoka attempts to take centre stage from August 23.

Another regional Olympics, the African Games, in Harare from September 13 to 23, could also keep some of the world's best athletes away from Fukuoka.

The 1995 Universiade promises to be a far cry from the 1985 edition in the rival Japanese city of Kobe. U.S. swimmer Matt Biondi won four gold medals and Soviet high jumper Igor Paklin smashed the world record by one centimetre in the very final event.

Since then, the biennial Universiade has slumped. Sao Paulo gave up the 1989 edition because of lack of finance and Dusseldorf in Germany had to come to the rescue. Sheffield in England also lost money in 1991, and how many people remember

that the U.S. city of Buffalo staged the games last year?

But Fukuoka, best remembered for its annual men's international marathon and women's judo tournament, had high hopes when it won the right to stage the games in 1989.

The city of 1.2 million people needed an international event to celebrate its municipal centenary.

But it won a year before Italian sport Supremo Primo Nebiolo, head of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the international university sports federation FISU, made the world athletic championships every two years instead of four.

Fukuoka has invested 300 billion yen (\$3 billion) in building six new sports facilities and roads for its urban redevelopment project.

The Bank of Japan initially estimated spin-off economic effects from the Universiade investment at up to one trillion yen (\$10 billion), including consumer spending.

But as Japan battles out of recession, the organising committee has only reached half its goal of four billion yen (\$40 million) in market-

ing revenue, out of the projected operational budget of 17 billion yen.

Because of the lack of competitive appeal, the games cannot command huge television fees.

Still, the U.S. network ABC and the global news channel CNN are expected to send commentators to Fukuoka Games, said Yoshifumi Osawa, the committee's broadcasting director.

The competitors who do turn up can expect the very best of facilities, however — especially Fukuoka Dome, one of Asia's first stadiums with a roof which can be opened and closed according to the weather.

The \$760-million Dome was built by Japan's super-market king Ito Nakauchi as home ground for his professional baseball team the Daiei Hawks. U.S. pop'n roll icons Michael Jackson and Madonna have packed the Dome since it opened in April last year.

Some 1,200 apartments in a newly built complex will serve as the athletes' village, on a seaside marine park, as at the Barcelona Olympics. The park will be complete with Nakauchi's 1,025 room, 36-story hotel.

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Sports

Johnson keeps IBF crown against determined Segura

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson held off a determined challenger from Francisco Segura here Saturday to retain his International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight title by unanimous decision.

Segura, a one-time journeyman who transformed himself into a title contender after surviving a road accident that killed his wife and baby daughter in 1989, took the fight to the champion from the opening bell.

He absorbed all the punishment Johnson could dish out, including a second-round right that rocked him, and kept coming back for more.

"I thought I had him," Johnson said of that second-round blow that staggered Segura. "But he's got good defenses. He covers up very well. I tried to throw some to the body to set him up for

something up top, but he didn't drop his hands."

Segura, the IBF's top-ranked contender, turned pro in 1985. He won nine of his first 11 pro fights as a junior lightweight, then he quit.

"I had no business in the ring," the 28-year-old from California said, adding: "I had problems and I wasn't training. I was drinking."

Then came the accident in his pick-up truck. Segura suffered a broken ankle, his three-year-old son was injured, but his wife and eight-month-old daughter were killed.

"You never forget that day," he says. "You learn to accept it and get on with your life. Thanks to God, I was able to turn my life around."

Both fighters came out swinging, but in the end Johnson had the edge in speed and accuracy.

The champion from Detroit, who defended the title

for the fifth time in less than 14 months, reportedly had trouble making the 126-pound (57 kg) weight for the fight, was clearly leg weary in the 12th, though he was throwing nearly as many punches as ever.

"The 12th round is just as important as the first round," said Johnson, who has said he approaches every defence as if he were fighting for a vacant title.

"I don't ever think about getting relaxed. When a guy is swinging at you, you know he's trying to win and you can't relax. My goal was to go in and win every round."

The judges scored it 118-110, 118-110 and 117-111 for Johnson, who took his record to 37 wins against two draws and one defeat with 23 knockouts.

Segura, who was on a five-fight unbeaten streak going into the bout, has now a 25-7-1 record.

Swedish league bans NHLers who will not play full season

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Swedish Elite League voted Saturday against allowing North American National Hockey League (NHL) players to sign short-term deals with their former Swedish teams during the lockout.

Only NHLers who agree to play the full season in Sweden will be able to join their old teams, the league said.

The vote was not unanimous among the 12 teams that took part in a meeting at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport, the Swedish news agency TT said.

Only 50 of the 300 members in the Swedish Elite League's players union were in favour of having NHLers on the teams, according to results of a survey released last week. Later, two teams supported the idea after unanimous votes.

The Swedish league is the first in Europe not allowing NHLers to play for their old teams during the lockout.

"We think it would be unfair to let NHLers play for a shorter period," said Tommy Topel, president of the Swedish Elite League. "It could affect the league in an unnatural way. And the rosters have already been set a long time ago."

Patrick Carnback, who played for the Anaheim Mighty Ducks last season, made his debut for Västra Frölunda this week after he agreed to stay with the club throughout the season.

Most of the 30-plus Swedish

NHLers have returned home during the lockout and at least a dozen inquired about playing for their old teams.

Saturday's decision could mean that some of them will try to get jobs in neighbouring Finland and Norway. Pittsburgh's Tomas Sandstrom, who was born in Finland, reportedly has inquired about playing for a Finnish league team.

Toronto's Mats Sundin said Finland "looks like a good alternative to get match-tough."

"I'm little bit disappointed. We've been allowed to practise and I was really hoping to play in Sweden during the lockout. It's a pity because the Swedish league is the best in Europe."

"But the Finnish league is also competitive. Using NHLers proved to be a big success for the league and its teams."

Quebec Nordiques rookie Peter Forsberg may go to the Norwegian league, where his father Kent is coaching Valerengen.

"We decided to let Mats Sundin (of the Toronto Maple Leafs) and Tommy Soderstrom (of the New York Islanders) play with us during the NHL labour strife, but we accept the league's majority vote," said Ingemar Drakensjö, chairman of Djurgården, a Stockholm-based team which leads Europe's top hockey league.

All 34 Djurgården players voted Wednesday in favour of Sundin returning to the team during the lockout. Soderstrom, a goalie, later turned down the offer.

Forsberg, who clinched Sweden's Olympic victory against Canada eight months ago, also had hoped to play for his old Swedish team Modo during the lockout.

Four Finnish NHL stars, Jari Kurri (Los Angeles), Teemu Selanne (Winnipeg), Esa Tikkanen (St. Louis) and Christian Ruutu (Chicago) played their first game in the Finnish league Thursday. Germany, the Czech Republic and Russia are also allowing NHLers to play there during the lockout.

Edberg wins Hong Kong championship

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Agassi

STEFAN Edberg beat defending champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 Sunday and won the \$763,500 Marlboro Championships.

Edberg, ranked fifth in the world, took one hour and 49 minutes to stop Krajicek and avenge his defeat in last year's final. The Swede has been runner-up twice in the Hong Kong tournament.

Both players struggled with their serves early in the match, with Edberg hitting eight double faults in the opening set. Krajicek, who blasted 22 aces in his semifinal victory over American Pete Sampras, had only one in four service games.

The players traded service breaks in the first two games but Edberg's consistency pulled him through as he broke Krajicek's serve again in the sixth game en route to winning the first set.

Krajicek started the second set with a service break in the second game but Edberg broke back immediately and the set went to a tiebreak, which the Swede won 7-4.

A service break in the sixth game was enough to give Edberg the third set and the title, worth \$220,000. "I was struggling with my serves in the first set, but I was serving a lot better in the second and third and I am very pleased with my overall performance," he said.

Chang keeps Beijing title

In Beijing home favourite Michael Chang retained his Beijing Open crown here Sunday, downing Sweden's Andrei Jarryd. First-seed Chang, ranked seventh in the world, took an hour and a half to beat the Swede 7-5, 7-5.

Jarryd, 138th in the world, fought hard but did not cause a moment's serious concern to the 22-year-old Chinese American — who had the crowd behind him.

With the absence of other top-ranking players, the \$350,000 ATP tournament often looked like no more than a training session for Chang. He picked up the \$42,000 winner's cheque and

140 points in the ATP ranking.

Agassi to face Stich

In Vienna Andre Agassi continued to display the form he used to win the U.S. Open Saturday, trouncing top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic 6-4, 6-4 at the CA Trophy to set up a rematch of the Flushing final against Germany's Michael Stich.

The third-seeded American, playing in his first tournament since the U.S. Open, was undaunted by 19 aces from the Croatian and looked a strong favourite to beat Stich again and win the \$410,000 Vienna tournament.

In the first semifinal, second-seeded Stich breezed past Austria's crumbling Thomas Muster, the fourth seed, 6-3, 6-3, dominating play even more than the result suggested.

There was never a dull moment for the 8,500 capacity crowd at Vienna's Stadthalle Indoor Arena as Agassi controlled with sliced cross volleys and long passing shots, often only centimetres inside the line.

Agassi's precision and speed unnerved Ivanisevic, who admitted he found no antidote to counter the surging American.

Andre is playing incredibly now... I simply had to risk too much today," said Ivanisevic, who believed he had played good tennis nevertheless.

Ivanisevic, the defending CA Trophy champion, had an impressive start, serving six aces in his first two games. He broke Agassi's service for 3-1, but then slowly faded.

Agassi broke back immediately, and then powered on relentlessly. Ivanisevic's service got less and less accurate, resulting in crucial double-faults.

In the second set, Agassi increasingly dominated play, breaking Ivanisevic at love for a 3-2 lead and wearing down the hapless Croatian.

"I didn't know what to do," Ivanisevic confessed. "When I hit hard, the ball came back even harder. When I slowed, he im-



Stefan Edberg

mediately played a winner."

In Flushing Meadow, Agassi celebrated his fifth victory against Stich, beating the German 6-1, 7-6, 7-5.

In Vienna, the American clearly was the darling of a crowd disappointed by Muster's poor showing. Every point was greeted with strong applause and whistles.

Rosset, Courier in Lyon final

In Lyon, France, Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Jim Courier of the United States gained the final of the \$600,000 Lyon Open tournament with straight-set victories Saturday.

Rosset, seeded fifth, easily beat top-seeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, 6-2, 6-2, in

72 minutes. Rosset, the 1990 champion here, used his big serve to handle Medvedev. In the quarterfinals Friday Rosset dealt South Africa's Wayne Ferreira his first loss in four tournaments.

In the other semifinal Courier, fourth seeded, defeated Russian Andrei Chesnokov, 6-3, 6-4.

It will be Courier's second final of the year. He lost in Nice last April. He has failed to win a tournament since August of 1993 when he captured the title at Indianapolis and has fallen to no. 14 in the world.

All-Czech final in Brighton

In Brighton, England,

title-holder Jana Novotna staved off a fierce challenge from Julie Halard of France Saturday to claim a place in the final of the Brighton International Women's Indoor Tournament.

Novotna was due to face fellow Czech Helena Sukova late Sunday in the final after the 1990 runner-up beat Latvia's Larisa Neiland 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in the second semifinal.

Second seed Novotna achieved her fifth successive straight-sets victory over seventh seed Halard but had to battle hard in the second set, twice recovering service breaks, before wrapping up a 6-3, 7-5 victory in 94 minutes.

She described Halard's play as "ugly" but the French player's ferocious ground-stroke battery from the back of the court was highly effective, if not pretty.

"It was very tough, especially in the second set. She is a very difficult player to face because she hits the ball so hard to keep you behind the baseline and then throws in a short ball. She is very unpredictable," Novotna said.

Halard's resistance looked short-lived initially when she was broken twice from 3-3 in the first set and trailed 0-1 in the second. But the French player suddenly lifted her game to give Novotna a fight.

"My self-confidence is building up all the time and I never thought for one moment that I would not win this match," said Novotna who won her last tournament in Leipzig three weeks ago. "It was good to have a difficult match like that before the final because I haven't really had a tough test like that all week."

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* Q 10

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* 9 7

* K 6

* 9 7 5 3 2

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SOUTH

* A 5 3

* J 8 7 3

* A K J 6

* A 4

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 Pass

2 Pass 3 Pass

4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

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After South opened one no trump, North checked on a possible 4-4 or better fit in a major. Even though a heart fit was located North did not have quite enough to jump to game because of a lack of prime cards. However, the ruffing value in clubs made South's decision to accept the invitation easy.

West led the queen of clubs, hitting declarer's soft undertrick right away. In an attempt to dispose of the club loser, declarer cashed three rounds of diamonds. All would have been well had both defenders followed, or if the defender who was short in diamonds had to ruff with an honor. Unfortunately, East ruffed with the nine, cashed the ace of trumps and exited with a club, muffed on the table. The contract was in its death throes.

Declarer had already lost two tricks and had a sure trump loser. While a successful spade finesse would give declarer two winners in the suit, it would still leave a spade loser. The only salvation lay in an endplay.

Leaving the master trump outstanding, declarer led the queen of spades, covered by the king and taken by the ace. The remaining diamond was cashed for a spade discard from dummy and a spade was led to the jack in the hope of snuffing that suit from the key defender. When West saw how thrown in with the king of hearts, the forced minor-suit return allowed declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding the spade loser from the other.

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Israel plans to import 19,000 workers to replace Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli government on Sunday approved the import of 19,000 foreign workers to replace some of the Palestinian agricultural and construction labourers barred from Israel after a bomb in Tel Aviv killed 21 people.

A cabinet statement said the decision would provide 4,000 more foreign workers to the farming sector and 15,000 to Israel's building industry.

Some ministers hailed the move as a step toward ending Israel's dependence on Palestinian workers.

Other ministers warned the whittling down of the Palestinian workforce in Israel would strain the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) running self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho under the year-old Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal.

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in

last Wednesday. "Our efforts at the moment are strategic, to arrange things so that we can operate from the economy's point of view for a longer period on the basis of separation (between Israel and Palestinians)," said Economics Minister Shimon Shetret.

Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban expressed concern: "There is no doubt this closure puts very serious stress on the residents of the territories... we must take into account the difficulties of our (peace) partner and not only our own difficulties."

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip according to U.N. estimates is running at 40 per cent.

The new workers, to include a group from China, would be in addition to 34,200 workers from Romania and Thailand brought to Israel during previous closures.

Since March 1993 the Palestinian workforce in Israel has been reduced to 60,000 from 90,000, Wednesday's closure brought the number to zero for the indefinite future.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after imposing it that Israel faced "a big decision" on separating Israelis from Palestinians permanently.

In Cairo, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a press conference that the closure was a "temporary measure."

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni warned of the dangers of breeding greater extremism among the Palestinians.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, of the left-wing Meretz party, also said that Israel would not maintain the closure permanently.

"It's not going to become permanent, it's not collective punishment," he said. "It means we have to exercise more control over those entering Israel from the territories."

He called Sunday's decision "defensive measures to save our people from the risk of another catastrophe like the bus bombing."

The disengagement process began months ago and a border fence is at an advanced stage of construction around the Gaza Strip. Several Labour deputies called at the weekend for a fence to be put between Israel and the West Bank.

But 70,000 Palestinians were still working in Israel when the bomb went off and they have now been deprived of their livelihoods for an uncertain period.

The cabinet agreed Sunday to extend the work permits of foreign workers already in Israel for one year and to impose heavy fines on Israeli employees using illegal Palestinian labour from the territories.

The majority of the 19,000 will be employed in construction with 4,000 in agriculture. Israel will look to Bulgaria, Romania, China and Thailand, the officials said.



LIFE UNDER SIEGE: Palestinians pass Israeli soldiers patrolling the curfewed town of Hebron on the West Bank following the stabbing of a soldier on Sunday. The soldier escaped with minor injuries as his comrades opened fire immediately and shot the man dead (AFP photo)

Majali rejects PLO assertion on treaty clause on Jerusalem

Peace projects involve \$25b, will create jobs, premier tells government officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday rejected assertions that Jordan's acceptance of Israel's recognition of the Kingdom's historical role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem meant that the Kingdom was also accepting Israel's claim that the Holy City is its capital.

If anything, "religious guardianship of Jerusalem is of special significance because it refutes Israel's claim that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel," Dr. Majali said at a weekly meeting of the heads of departments of the Ministry of Youth.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had acknowledged this relationship and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and the Kingdom continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy sites and the Aqsa staff there, Dr. Majali noted.

The prime minister also noted that the status of Jerusalem was to be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israel in the final status negotiations at a later stage, but that the issue of the Holy City was indeed dealt within Security Council Resolution 242.

On the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, the prime minister said Jordan had not compromised any of its rights in water, territory and security;

nor has it made any concessions on its resolve to find a solution to the problem of refugees.

The challenge facing Jordan is to enhance the Kingdom's productive capacity and increase investments, he said.

Dr. Majali announced that projects worth \$25 billion were to be carried out in the Jordan Valley. A railroad linking Amman with Irbid and the Syrian border is planned and seven dams will be built, he said.

The government also plans to build new cities to ease urban congestion and pressure elsewhere and many other projects were planned which would create job opportunities for a large number of people, he said.

"These cannot be finished overnight," said the prime minister.

On Jordan's foreign debts, he said: "The future is promising, part of the debts will be rescheduled and part will be written off."

The prime minister also announced that the government plans to build housing projects for civil servants on state-owned land.

stated that it supported the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty over Jerusalem and that "Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine."

The prime minister also reviewed the longstanding relations between the Hashemites and Jerusalem which were not disrupted by the 1967 war or by Jordan's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Both Israel and the PLO had acknowledged this relationship and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and the Kingdom continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy sites and the Aqsa staff there, Dr. Majali noted.

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The prime minister also reviewed the longstanding relations between the Hashemites and Jerusalem which were not disrupted by the 1967 war or by Jordan's 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Both Israel and the PLO had acknowledged this relationship and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem and the Kingdom continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy sites and the Aqsa staff there, Dr. Majali noted.

The prime minister also noted that the status of Jerusalem was to be negotiated between the Palestinians and Israel in the final status negotiations at a later stage, but that the issue of the Holy City was indeed dealt within Security Council Resolution 242.

On the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, the prime minister said Jordan had not compromised any of its rights in water, territory and security;

nor has it made any concessions on its resolve to find a solution to the problem of refugees.

The challenge facing Jordan is to enhance the Kingdom's productive capacity and increase investments, he said.

Dr. Majali announced that projects worth \$25 billion were to be carried out in the Jordan Valley. A railroad linking Amman with Irbid and the Syrian border is planned and seven dams will be built, he said.

The government also plans to build new cities to ease urban congestion and pressure elsewhere and many other projects were planned which would create job opportunities for a large number of people, he said.

"These cannot be finished overnight," said the prime minister.

On Jordan's foreign debts, he said: "The future is promising, part of the debts will be rescheduled and part will be written off."

The prime minister also announced that the government plans to build housing projects for civil servants on state-owned land.

Lebanon media welcome new law

BEIRUT (R) — Broadcasters welcomed a law regulating Lebanon's mass of private television and radio stations but some said it gave the government too much power to choose which ones to license.

Under the law passed by parliament last week some 50 television and more than 100 radio stations that sprouted during and after the 1975-90 civil war must apply to the cabinet for licences.

The law regulates ownership of television and radio companies, set broadcast guidelines, broadly defines licensing requirements and calls for a 10-member national council to supervise their work.

It says stations — many of them militia mouthpieces in the war — must not provoke sectarian feuds or slander heads of state.

Authorities can ask for imprisonment for offenders who get funds to "serve interests of a foreign state or agency against public benefit," touching the political system or provoking sectarian feuds or disturbances," the law says.

Most broadcasters interviewed by Reuters agreed that Lebanon's chaotic audiovisual media needed regulation.

"It's not bad at all," Qassem Ja'afar, director general of Beirut's New Television (NTV), said of the law.

"I would not say it was fantastic... but I say we have a very good basis, an information bill unique in the Middle East."

It is not known how many stations will be licensed but broadcasters say a few major ones will survive tough licensing requirements and the cut-throat competition for market share.

U.S. navy boards ship said carrying Iraqi fuel

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A U.S. warship intercepted a ship suspected of carrying Iraqi fuel, breaching U.N. sanctions, and diverted it to Kuwait under escort for further investigation on Sunday, officials said.

"We boarded it and diverted it. It's loaded with diesel fuel that we believe to be from Iraq," a U.S. Navy spokesman told Reuters in Dubai.

"We have substantial evidence that she went to Iraq... the ship has been turned over to Kuwait."

The guided missile cruiser Leyte Gulf, part of a four-year-old ship monitoring operation, stopped the Honduran-flagged tanker Al Mahrousa, in international waters in the northern Gulf on Saturday, the navy spokesman said.

He added that navy and coastguard personnel boarded the Russian-built Al Mahrousa to check whether it was violating the U.N. oil embargo imposed on Iraq over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

One shipping source said the vessel, which displaces about 7,300 tonnes when fully loaded, was carrying about 3,000 tonnes of diesel. It had an Egyptian and Pakistani crew.

The Kuwaiti government was expected to work with the U.N. Sanctions Committee to decide what to do with the vessel.

A Kuwaiti Defence Ministry spokesman said he understood the ship would be brought in to a Kuwait port under escort later on Sunday but he declined further comment.

Another Kuwaiti official said Kuwaiti naval officers were inspecting the ship and would escort the vessel into Al Shuaiba port.

"There are some of our officers on board the ship at the moment carrying out an inspection," the official, who did not want to be identified,

told Reuters. "The ship is expected to be anchoring in Al Shuaiba port by sunset."

According to the U.S. Navy spokesman, the captain said the Al Mahrousa had been to Iran. But the ship had maps only for the Khawr Abdullah waterway leading into Iraq. It also had no documentation, no bill of lading and no manifest.

Kuwait Radio said several of the crew had indicated it had loaded with diesel fuel in Iraq's port of Basra.

The U.S. vessel that intercepted the Al Mahrousa was part of the U.N. maritime intercept operation that monitors ships coming from or bound to Iraq in the Gulf.

The boarding was the second in 10 days and occurred amid heightened tension in the Gulf region as a result of Iraq massing troops near the Kuwaiti border early in October.

On Oct. 13, the U.S. Navy boarded the 29,687-tonne Greek-owned, Liberian-flagged tanker Katerina P, saying it had oil believed to have come from Iraq.

Iran and the ship's agents denied reports that it had probably been carrying Iraqi gas oil to Iran, and that it had apparently also often carried Iranian fuel oil to Iraq.

The Katerina P is still detained in international waters in the Gulf, its crew and a U.S. Navy team still aboard.

The U.N. sanctions, including a ban on Iraqi oil exports, was imposed four days after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990.

Colonel Museeb Najm, a spokesman for Kuwait's Defence Ministry, said Saturday night that the Al Mahrousa's crew had admitted they loaded the fuel at Basra.

Col. Najm said Kuwait had "accepted the responsibility of investigating this violation committed by the captain and the owners" of the ship.

Al Mahrousa was on charter to the German Hansa Shipping Co.

GIA claims killing of oil workers in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the Algerian fundamentalist organisations, claimed responsibility for killing two foreign oil workers this week in its latest newsletter, obtained here Sunday.

"The sabotage and destruction squadron carried out an attack on an industrial infrastructure killing two Christians, one French and one Italian," the latest issue of El Ansar (the Parisians) said.

"The installations were set on fire during the attack," the newsletter added.

Islamic guerrillas raided an oilfield 400 kilometres southwest of Algiers operated by the state oil authority Sonatrach on Tuesday, killing 36-year-old Frenchman Philippe Heret, and Italian Mauro Dell'Angelo, 40. Both worked for the Franco-American group Schlumberger.

The raid was the first attack on the oil and gas sector, which represents 95 per cent of Algeria's export earnings, and was clearly aimed at scaring off foreign petro-chemical firms, whose technology and expertise is vital to maintaining the flow and developing new reserves.

Algeria is the biggest producer of natural gas in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the world's fifth biggest exporter.

The latest killings brought the total number of foreigners killed to 66 since the GIA ordered foreign nationals to leave the country or risk attack.

In a separate incident, the director of the Islamic Institute at Batna, 400 kilometres southeast of Algiers was assassinated Friday, the press reported Sunday.

Tahar Halis, 51, a father of eight, was killed as he left the mosque after saying his prayers at dusk.

Halis had been the political commissar for the National Liberation Front (FLN), the country's former sole party. He was also honorary imam at Friday prayers in one of the town's mosques.

He was the fourth university employee to be killed since May. The others were the rector of the university of Bab Ezzouar in Algiers and the directors of the veterinary institute of Algiers and the agronomy institute in Bida, in the south.

Security forces killed 47 Islamic extremists in a four-day period last week — the highest toll in eight months.

The extremists, described as armed, were killed in clashes in various regions around the country, according to the Saturday communiqué by security forces.

The last time security forces reported such a high toll was in March when a manhunt was launched following a mass breakout from a high security prison in the eastern Aurès mountains. Some 1,000 prisoners escaped in the breakout massacre.

The four Britons are from London and arrived in Egypt last week, the sources said. The bus was carrying them from the tourist village of Korna to see craftsmen in Naqada weaving silk on hand looms.

Militants fighting to overthrow the Egyptian government have carried out 21 previous attacks on tourists in Egypt as part of their campaign to turn the country into a strict Islamic state. Six tourists were killed and 50 wounded in those attacks.

Monday's attack took place on a dirt track leading from Luxor to Naqada, where the tourists wanted to visit the temple of Dendara, police said.

The Interior Ministry said the mini-bus took an "unauthorised" route without informing police. Security forces are on constant alert in the Luxor region, where militants have carried out several attacks in the past.

In the last attack on tourists, a German and two Egyptians were shot dead on Sept. 27 in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Hurghada.

The militants stepped up their confrontation with the government just over a week ago by stabbing Nobel Prize-winning writer Naguib Mahfouz. The 83-year-old author is recovering from knife wounds in his neck from the Oct. 14 attack.

The government's crackdown on the rebels following Mr. Mahfouz's stabbing has left two policemen and 15 suspected radicals dead.

Militants kill tourist, injure 4 in Egypt

ASSIUT (Agencies) — Suspected Muslim militants opened fire on a tour bus in southern Egypt on Sunday, killing a British tourist and wounding three others and an Egyptian driver.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement the bus was on a road that is not designated for tourist buses and the driver, Ahmad Abdul Kader, had not notified police of his journey.

Security sources said a witness saw three men wearing traditional robes open fire on the bus with machine-guns in the town of Naqada in the southern province of Qena, 500 kilometres south of Cairo. The gunmen escaped.

The Interior Ministry named the dead tourist as John Byers and said the other three tourists in the bus as well as the driver were injured.

Byers, 46, was shot in the right side of the chest, security sources said. His wife, Linda Edwards, was slightly injured.

Tourist Martine Morris, 47, suffered a fracture in her right shoulder and her husband, Michael Morris, 46, light scratches to his back, the sources said, quoting Dr. Daoud Nazeem of Naqada general hospital.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain-Qatar meeting on dispute fails

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain and Qatar have failed to draw up a joint request for the World Court in The Hague to intervene in their border dispute, a Bahraini official spokesman announced Sunday. The spokesman, quoted by GNA news agency, said representatives of the two countries had met Saturday in London but failed to agree. They would meet again at a later date. The meeting broke down over the status of Zubara, a coastal region in northwest Qatar but also claimed by Bahrain, he said. Qatar refused to allow the zone to be included in the file to be presented to the World Court. The court itself is to meet on Nov. 30, at the end of a five-month period laid down for the countries in dispute to submit their request for mediation, either jointly or separately. Doha called in July 1991 for the World Court to rule in its favour for the Hawar islands off the Qatari coast as well as the Dibal shallows between Hawar and Bahrain. The dispute dates back to 1939 when Britain ruled the region.

Rabin's 'death certificate' tours settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli hardliners have printed a "death certificate" for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and circulated it in Jewish settlements on the West Bank, police said Sunday. The leaflet refers to suicide as the cause of death and says "the people do not want to commit suicide with you." The former spokesman for the anti-Arab movement Kach which was banned in February, Noam Federman, said he "agreed with the message on Rabin's suicidal policy" but denied responsibility.

Miracle icon comes to help Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — A revered icon of the Virgin Mary has arrived on Cyprus where the Greek-Cypriots hope it will help bring about a solution to the island's 20-year division. President Glafkos Clerides and several other political and religious leaders greeted the Axion Estin icon on its arrival at Larnaca airport on Friday, in a ceremony fit for a head of state. The icon, reputed to be able to work miracles, has only left its home at Mount Athos monastery in Greece three times in the last 1,000 years. It was brought at the request of the president and Archbishop Chrysostomos in the hope of speeding up a Cyprus solution, which has defied U.N. mediation since the Turkish invasion of the north of the island in 1974. Mr. Clerides said he hoped the Greek-Cypriots would "draw the courage and strength from its presence to enhance their faith that Cyprus will be liberated from Turkish occupation." The icon is to tour the south of the island for two weeks.

Libya to cut off links with outside world

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya is to cut off all links with the outside world for 12 hours on Wednesday to commemorate an anniversary dating back to the Italian occupation, the official news agency JANA said. The Communications Ministry said international telephone and telegraphic links as well as land, sea and air travel abroad would be suspended from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (0500 to 1700 GMT). The "day of mourning" was first commemorated in 1988. Tripoli, which is under a U.N. international air traffic embargo, says the event marks the deportation in 1911 of thousands of Libyans by the colonial power Italy.

Embattled Rabin nips out for a smoke

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was forced to pop out twice during Sunday's cabinet meeting to satisfy his addiction to nicotine. Israel radio reported, as anti-smoking laws came into force. Mr. Rabin, a life-long chain smoker, found all the ashtrays had been removed from the cabinet room when he arrived. The new legislation bans smoking in virtually all public places, including at work. Restaurants and employers have to set aside smoking rooms or areas. Before Sunday's cabinet session Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, a doctor, presented Mr. Rabin with the legislation to make it clear that passive smoking was out as far as he was concerned, the radio said. Mr. Rabin, who held the health portfolio until earlier this year, refused to sign the no-smoking bill into law during 1993. He admitted it would be too hypocritical for someone who had never even really tried to kick the habit. On the eve of the 1967 war, Mr. Rabin, then chief of staff, broke down and had to be treated for what he later said was a nicotine overdose.

Kuwait discards plan for defence tax

KUWAIT (AP) — The government on Sunday dropped unpopular plans to impose a defence tax on all wage earners to help the emirate cover its share of the cost of the recent military buildup countering Iraqi threats. The government instead will coordinate a campaign for individual donations. Abdul Aziz Al Dakheel, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, told the Kuwaiti News Agency after a cabinet meeting. Mr. Dakheel did not say why the defence tax plan, which called for taking 10 per cent from the monthly salaries of all wage earners, was scrapped. But a government poll of 2,053 Kuwaitis and foreigners working in the emirate showed that 70 per cent of them did not approve of the tax. According to Al Siyassah daily newspaper, which carried the poll, 94 per cent of those surveyed said they preferred voluntary donations.

COLUMN

Disney, orchestra agree to settle suit

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The Philadelphia Orchestra and Walt Disney Co. have agreed to settle the orchestra's \$35 million lawsuit over royalties from the soundtrack of the home video version of Fantasia, lawyers said. The orchestra's lead attorney, David Pittinsky, said that the two sides had "decided amicably to resolve the issues. More than that we can't say." The dispute arose after Disney's 1991 release of the animated movie classic on videocassette. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association sued Burbank, California-based Disney and its home video subsidiary in May 1992, claiming it was owed at least \$35 million in royalties from home video sales. The original theatrical release in 1940 came a year after conductor Leopold Stokowski and the orchestra recorded the soundtrack for the film. Disney's lawyers have argued that the fee paid to the orchestra for the original theatrical release was all it was entitled to as a hired performer. On Monday a judge denied Disney's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, which sought at least 10 per cent of the estimated \$350 million in home video sales of the classic film. The orchestra reportedly got a flat fee of \$2,500 for its April 1939 performance, recorded at the Academy of Music. Because the trial was underway, the tentative settlement, terms of which were not disclosed, must be approved by the judge, lawyers said.

U.S. police aid in bust of dollar counterfeiters

BANGKOK (AP) — American investigators joined Thai police in busting a gang which was counterfeiting hundred-dollar bills, press reports said Saturday. Police seized 2,000 of the fake notes and arrested three men in a Thursday night raid at a gas station, police Col. Somsak Saenchuen announced at a news conference. Two of the arrested men had been released from prison only three months earlier after serving three-year terms for counterfeiting, the Bangkok Post reported. Col. Somsak said the fake banknotes were wholesaled by a gang in the northeast province of Buriram, whose members bought the fake bills for 80 baht (\$3.20) apiece and sold them for 90 baht (\$3.60). American currency is widely used in the countries of Indochina, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, which are Thailand's eastern neighbours.

Gays protest as new bishop is enthroned

DURHAM, England (AFP) — Homosexuals demonstrated Saturday at the enthronement of the new bishop of Durham, who has condemned homosexuality despite being convicted of gross indecency with another man 26 years ago. Two men were arrested by police when they tried to rush at Bishop Michael Turnbull as he was making the traditional three knocks on the door to be admitted to the Norman cathedral in this northeast England city. Demonstrators in front of the cathedral shouted "Turnbull is a hypocrite" and "sack the bishop now." Bishop Turnbull, who denied ever being a homosexual after the incident in a public toilet was revealed in a Sunday tabloid newspaper last month, told the congregation inside that he had been "through a private and now public process of repentance." "I am deeply sorry that so many friends, and especially new friends in this diocese, have shared some of the consequences. The people of the north-east have a right to be shocked about what happened," he said. A defrocked Anglican priest, Sebastian Sandys, commented, "It is a sad indictment on the Church of England that Michael should be put through the humiliating apology he made today for taking part in adult consensual sex." "If the Church of England could treat these issues with maturity and responsibility such humiliations could be avoided. How many more of these scandals will the church have to endure before it deals with the question of homosexuality properly?"